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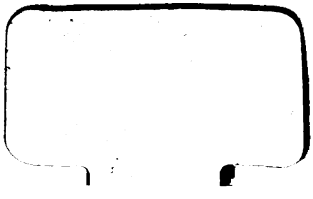
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Campbell



LETTERS

FROM

THE SOUTH.

BY

THOMAS CAMPBELL, ESQ.

AUTHOR OF

"THE PLEASURES OF HOPE."

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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DURING our passage from Bougia to Bona, I again amused myself with reading Leo Africanus, particularly his account of the place to which we were steering. Bona, according to Leo, is situated more than a mile (*in secundo miliario*) from an ancient

town called Hippo, which was founded by the Romans, and where the divine Augustine held his bishoprick. At the fall of the Roman empire Hippo, or Hippona, submitted to the Goths; but it was afterwards burned by the Arabs. At the end of a great many years, a new city was built out of the ruins of the ancient one, which is still called Bona by the Christians, but by the Arabs Beld el Huneb, or the town of Jujebs, on account of the vast quantity of that fruit which is dried in the summer and preserved for winter. "It numbers (says Leo) about three hundred families, and its people are ingenious and active both in merchandise and the useful arts. Their looms supply a great quantity of the cloth that is carried into Numidia; but the houses and even public edifices are very mean, with the exception of one temple near the sea; they have no fountains, nor any fresh water but rain, which they keep in cisterns." After

alluding to the sordid rags and sanctity of its Maraboots, he describes the spacious plain in the neighbourhood of Bona, which is forty miles in length and twenty-five in breath. I was charmed with Leo's description of this fertile expanse, and dreamed of it all night.

Early next morning, we entered the harbour of Bona. As you approach it, the shore presents a singular and immense rock, to which nature in her sport has given such a likeness to a lion couchant, that you remark the resemblance before being told that this is called the Lion Rock. On the whole, the view of Bona from the sea is not unpicturesque, but the city has remained faithful to Leo's account of its miserable houses, which are lower than those of Algiers, though the streets are wider. We repaired to the principal inn, where we breakfasted indifferently at the charge of four francs a head, and were told

that each of our beds would cost five francs a night. Ere noon, I sallied forth with Mr. Brown and a French artist, who had come from Algiers to take sketches of the coast —and crossing the marsh that intervenes, got to the few ruins that remain of the ancient Hippo Regius. The river Boojeemah—which has a bridge of Roman workmanship built over it—runs along the western side of this marshy plain, as the Sciblouse, a much larger river, does to the eastward—both of them having their influx together into the sea.

The ruins of the ancient city are spread over a neck of land that lies between these rivers, which, near the banks, is plain and level, but rises afterwards to a moderate elevation. These ruins are about half a league in circuit, and consist of large broken walls and cavities beneath the level of the soil, which are traditionally called the Roman cisterns.



My friend Neükomm, who had visited Bona before I met him at Algiers, spoke to me about these enormous cavities, and insisted that they must have been churches. The French painter assured me that they had been granaries; but, with all respect both for painting and music, your poetical friend adheres to the old opinion that they were cisterns: the remains of an aqueduct between them and the river settle all doubt upon the subject. Among the ruins is shown the gable of a high building, which is said to be that of the convent of St. Augustine; some lofty trees overshade the neighbourhood of the saint's abode. Undefinable but solemn feelings came over me as I trod the ground.

We pursued our way beyond the ruins along the eastern road, and came up with an Arab family whose habitation was an old ruinous house on the road side. The father of the family was tending some cattle

in an adjacent field, and the mother, a very good-looking woman, with the relics of true Arabian beauty, was weaving a web of woollen cloth on the grass near their habitation. The simplicity of her weaving was worthy of the first ages of the world; instead of a shuttle, she employed a needle, which carried the woof along the threads of the warp that were stretched along the ground; she had a rude sort of reed, through which the threads of the warp were run, and, by drawing in this reed, she bound the woof and warp together.

How pleasing is human art in all its stages, from simplicity to perfection! With full recollections in my mind of the wonderful power-looms which I had seen at Glasgow, I could still look with interest on the work of this poor female artisan. Her two little sons and a daughter were beside her—all three struck us as being remarkably beautiful. I made Brown, who

understands Arabic, put some questions to her, and she answered them without interrupting her work, as gracefully and easily as if she had been receiving us in a drawing-room.

"How old," I asked, "is this sweet little girl?" (she seemed to be about eight years old.)

"I cannot tell you," she answered; "she was born several summers and winters before the French came here."

"Do you remember, then, how many summers and winters have gone by since the birth of either of your sons?"

"No, I cannot tell you, but I was married not long after there was a battle in this neighbourhood, and when many heads were carried about on poles."

In fact, these Arabs take no note of time, and have neither clocks nor registers; yet they are descendants of the people who taught us algebra.

On returning to the hotel, we found a polite note from the Governor-General Monck d'Uzer, inviting us to dinner, and requesting us to consider his table as our own during our stay at Bona. We dined with him, accordingly, the same day, and, whether it was imagination or not, I thought that the French General and his staff, surrounded by barbarians, were as glad to see European visitants as we were to receive their hospitality. I certainly remember few pleasanter evenings. General d'Uzer is a frank plain man. The French press speaks pretty freely about the character and conduct of the leading officers in this colony, and confidential conversation speaks still more freely about them; but I have never heard d'Uzer's name mentioned without respect; and even the Baron Pichon, who blames certain proceedings of the French with regard to Bona, exculpates the present governor, and mentions him in laudatory terms.

I was therefore flattered with the General's readiness, I could almost say zeal, in my conversation with him, to inform me of the relative position of the French and natives in this part of Africa. I felt as a compliment and as a good sign of the man his obvious wish that I should appreciate the justice and humanity of his principles in governing this portion of the colony. He said to me, " I have conciliated the natives by kindness and probity; pray come out with me to-morrow, and we will take a morning ride over a part of the vast plain to the east of Bona, where we shall pass through encampments of the Arabs without a single French musket to guard us: we shall have none with us but native horsemen and yet you shall be as safe as if you were in the streets of London."

Well, we waited on the General the next morning, and set out on Arabian steeds, with which he furnished us, one hun-

dred native cavalry preceding, and fifty following us, all in their white bernousses. We cantered out from Bona to the distance of fourteen miles, in a procession that was as regular as a funeral, though a great deal quicker; and, riding at the side of the General, I had thus the advantage of his conversation for a couple of hours. To be sure when our horses snuffed the country air, they showed a disposition to scamper off without regard to order, but we reined them in pretty well till the end of our journey.

We passed an eminence that was guarded by a company of Turks. I will tell you by and bye how it happens that the French have Turkish soldiers in their pay near Bona. The guard of Turks turned out in long file to salute the General. They were tall, fine men, and I admired their gracefulness in performing the ceremony. They did not present their muskets, but kept

them within their arms whilst they folded their hands across their breasts, bowing their heads as in the accustomed Oriental salaam. The General described to me the present produce and resources of the country, and enlarged on the advantages that might be drawn from it by European cultivation. He maintained his troops, he said, not by exactions from the natives, but by fair purchase, and at very slight cost to the French government, meat being contracted for at two sous a pound, and bread proportionably cheap.

As we proceeded on the vast plain that stretches to the borders of Tunis, I was struck with its verdure, and the appearance of natural though neglected fertility. There were here and there tall and dry shrubs, and abundance of thistles; but the soil, as far as my eye could reach, was in general grassy and of a vivid green: for miles toge-

ther I could have imagined myself riding over the turf of Kensington-gardens.

I recalled to mind Joannes Leo's description of it, "Huic oppido spatiosissima quædam est planities cujus longitudo quadraginta, latitudo autem viginti quinque continet miliara—hæc frugibus ferendis est felicissima." Leo then mentions the vast affluence of its cultivators in herds and flocks, and the quantities of butter and grain which they brought to market. After calculating in my own mind the number of square miles and acres which this plain must contain, I asked the General what he reckoned the population of its present cultivators to be, and he computed them at two thousand souls. Here, then, are one thousand square miles of richly capable land, or six hundred and fifty thousand acres, that would afford comfortable farms to six or seven thousand farmers, and

would maintain the population of a little kingdom, inhabited by poor creatures who can people it only in the proportion of two heads to a mile. "And this plain must be healthy, if I may judge by the air that I breathe?" "It is less unhealthy," said the General, "than the marshy land near Bona, and than the town itself, where the rubbish of uninhabited houses and other causes have noxious influences; but those influences are declining, and I trust will soon be removed."

The fee-simple of land may here be purchased at the rate of three francs an acre; but General d'Uzer was too candid to deny, that the European settler would have to encounter some danger of bad health on the plain itself, until the cultivation of the earth shall have improved the atmosphere. When nature is abandoned to herself there is always more or less insalubrity of climate: there is, moreover, throughout the

whole region a scarcity of wholesome water, for there are very few fountains, and its rivers are turbid. At first, and for a considerable time, the mortality at Bona was frightful; in the January of 1833 the garrison, four thousand in number, had exactly two thousand in the hospital. Even in 1834, the number of invalids was not diminished, but the deaths were much fewer. A repaired aqueduct now brings better water into the town; the hospitals have much improved, as well as the barracks of the soldiers; greater attention is also paid to prevent the soldiers from poisoning themselves with strong liquors and with fruits.

At the distance of some fourteen miles from Bona, we halted, and allowed our horses to browse for half an hour on a grassy spot, whilst the native cavaliers sat smoking their pipes under groups of trees as picturesquely as if they had been sitting for their portraits to a painter. On return-

ing, I was not so fortunate as to have much of General d'Uzer's company. We had scarcely remounted, when a portion of the Arabs, who had to return to their own villages instead of Bona, clapped spurs to their steeds, and swept away like wild-deer in a contrary direction to the route pursued by the General and his staff. Their suddenly galloping off, caused, by some accident, a report to be spread that a wild boar had been started, and that the Arabs were in chase of him; and my steed catching the rumour, neighed, as much as to say, "Ha, ha!" and set off with me, as if he had been willing to show the *mettle of his pasture.* When I reined him in, he reared on his hind legs, and gave me hints that if I did not go forward with him he would leave me behind—so I let him carry me over bush and briar, whilst the hard dry thistle-heads were banging against my stirrups, till we came up with the native troop.

One of them, who understood French, kindly acted as interpreter between me and my horse. Clapping the buttocks of the noble animal, he told him in Arabic, in the first place, that I had no desire to hunt a boar, and, in the next place, that there was no boar to hunt. Having converted my horse to the same opinion, I persuaded him to turn round and rejoin the General's cavalcade. On our way back to Bona, we visited an encampment of the Arabs. One of them came out to meet us, and presented to me a cupof butter-milk, which he poured out of a pitcher. The beverage was welcome after a fatiguing ride; but I turned to the General and requested him to drink first; he refused, however, saying, "I am at home here—this compliment is intended for you as a stranger;" and observing that I had my hand in my pocket, he added, "Don't offer any money—this man is the Patriarch of the Adouar." Unlike the

generality of the Arab patriarchs, the man before us had a mean appearance; but of course, after the General's information, I thanked him only with a salaam.

LETTER XVII.

Farm of Marshal d'Uzer—Situation of Bona—Expedition of the French against in 1830—Description of the Town—Recall of General Damremont in consequence of the Revolution of the Barricades—Consternation of the Inhabitants—Their successful defence against the Kabyles and Arabs—Anecdote of a French Artilleryman—Heroic resistance to the Native Tribes by the Citizens—Provisions supplied by General Berthezène—The Bonnese solicit a small auxiliary force from Algiers—Folly of the French management of Africa—The French Consul shot—The French driven out of Bona—A third Expedition sent from Algiers—Romantic history of Joseph.

On our way back to Bona, we halted a few miles from the town to see a farm which Marshal d'Uzer has bought and begun to cultivate, and on which he is constructing a handsome house. This would seem to indicate, at least, *his* belief, that the French occupation of the country will be perma-

nent. The soil of the flat part of the farm is black loam, and it appears to be fertile. He has planted thousands of young trees in a spacious level orchard, the tender verdure of which is beautiful, and fills the mind with pleasing associations. Here the olive, the vine, the mulberry, and the fig-tree have already displaced the osier and the nettle; and, amidst fruits and flowers that will soon spring up, the song of the nightingale will be heard, instead of the yelping of the jackal. Looking over the fair plantation, I recalled, and repeated to myself, the lines of my favourite Beattie:—

'Twas from Philosophy man learn'd to tame
The soil by plenty to intemperance fed;
Lo, from the echoing axe and thundering flame,
Poison, and plague, and yelling rage are fled.
The waters bursting from their slimy bed
Bring health and melody to every vale;
And from the breezy main and mountain's head,
Ceres and Flora to the sunny dale,
To fan their glowing charms, invite the flattering gale.

Minstrel—Book II.

On a hill above his farm, the Marshal has opened a marble quarry. The vein unfortunately produces hitherto only blue marble; but he has explored it neither widely nor deeply, and by extending his researches he may come to pure white stone. I returned to Bona, well pleased with my excursion in all respects, except that an untoward boot had pressed so tightly on one of my ankles as to inflame it, and occasion considerable pain.

Absorbed as I had been, in sublime speculations about the quantity of bread and cheese, which the enormous plain might be made to yield under good cultivation, I had never thought of relieving myself by the simple process of ripping up the galling leather: on reaching the hotel, I found myself quite lame, and, after despatching an apology to the commandant for not dining with him, I was glad to stretch myself on the top of my bed, and to amuse myself

with reading the few books that I had with me relating to the history of Bona.

I find that the latitude and longitude of this place have been accurately ascertained by a French officer of engineers, and that it lies in 36° 53′ 56″ north latitude, and in 5° 24′ 38″ east longitude; so that its distance in a straight line is a little more than ninety-five leagues from Algiers.

Bona is situated in a spacious bay, bounded on the west by Cape Garde, and on the east by Cape Rosa. The river Seibouze, joined toward the end of its course by the river Boojeemah, the ancient Armua, falls into the sea within this bay, as well as the Mafrag, a river rather less than the Seibouze, which discharges itself half way between Bona and Cape Rosa.

General Bourmont had no sooner possessed himself of Algiers than he thought of occupying Bona. The French having long maintained an African company,

whose coral fishery was here, looked on themselves as natural heirs to the possession of this part of the coast; an expedition was accordingly fitted up, and General Damremont was appointed to the command of it. The land troops consisted of two regiments of the line, and a proportionable force of artillery: these were embarked in ten vessels of different sizes, of which two frigates, the Bellona and the Duchess of Berri, set out ahead of the rest to reconnoitre the place, and to sound, not only its harbour, but the disposition of the inhabitants.

On the 1st of August, 1830, the whole squadron anchored in the bay of Bona, and the Admiral learned from the Captain of the Bellona, which had previously arrived, that the inhabitants, annoyed by the hostilities of vast hordes of Kabyles and Arabs who beleaguered the place, would be but too happy to receive the French as their de-

fenders. By invitation from General Damremont, the Cadi and the chief inhabitants of the city came on board the Commandant's vessel. Promises of eternal attachment were exchanged as liberally as between lovers: it was settled that the French troops should land, and they accordingly took possession both of the town and the citadel.

Bona is built at the bottom of what the French call a mammelon, *i. e.*, breast or nipple of land, the sides of which terminate in steep rocks along the shore. The city is inclosed by walls, which are about sixty feet in height, pretty thick, but not backed with earth, and have the shape of a rectangle slightly inclined towards the valley of the Seibouze. This wall, though weak in some parts, is still capable of a good defence against the Arabs; its total circumference is three thousand four hundred yards. The town has four gates, one leading from the east to the harbour; another,

called the Arab Gate, leading to Constantine, and two that face the citadel. The Kasbah, or citadel, with a wall of seven hundred yards in circuit, crowns a high hill to the south of the city: this wall is so high and so thick, and so backed by the natural soil, that it would be difficult to make a breach in it; it is capable of cannonading the roadstead and the mouth of the valley, and entirely commands the town: its interior is very large, and contains a number of cisterns.

Posted here with two thousand regular soldiers, besides artillerymen, General Damremont congratulated his countrymen on their prowess in beating off the Kabyles and Arabs, who besieged the place very actively during eighteen days; but, if we look to the history of a subsequent siege, after General Damremont had deserted Bona, we shall not be disposed to rank this defence among the first-rate feats of hero-

ism. On the 18th of August, a squadron of four ships arrived from Algiers, bringing at once intelligence of the revolution of the Barricades in Paris, and an order for General Damremont and all his force to re-embark for Algiers. It was supposed that General Bourmont meditated throwing himself with the whole French African army, if he could persuade them to follow him, into the South of France, and there to erect the Bourbon standard.

Whether he entertained this project or not, he at least thought it fit that the garrison of Bona should be recalled; and the inhabitants learned with consternation that they must now depend on their own valour for defending the town. Fear and grief, say the French, and we can well believe them, were depicted in the countenances of the citizens when they saw the preparations of the French for departing; and, by way of encouraging their compatriots to a

more desperate resistance, a hundred and twenty families of the richer class took the noble resolution of flying away, and embarked on board the French squadron for Algiers. The remainder, thus left to their fate, seemed to have but a small chance of standing out against their besiegers; but the poor people of Bona, though thus basely abandoned both by the French and their own civic notables, were not thrown into utter despair, but resolved upon and accomplished their defence.

Una salus victis nullam sperare salutem.

They threw fifty men into the citadel, and the rest kept watch and ward on the city walls; the continuance of fourscore Turkish soldiers among them, the residue of the ancient garrison, was no doubt an important circumstance in their favour, and it is possible that the occupation of Bona by the French had spread an exas-

peration among the native tribes, that may have somewhat abated when they heard of the Christians having departed. Nevertheless, the Kabyles and Arabs still partially invested the place, and the position of the citizens was very perilous, as the Bey of Constantine continued summoning them to surrender. The number of men in Bona at this time could not have exceeded three hundred, if it even amounted to so much, without counting the Turks; for the French, on first taking possession of it, reckoned the whole population only at two thousand.

One thing was quite certain, namely, that if the native tribes had got into the town and found any unfortunate Christian, particularly a French soldier, within its precincts, his head would have been the first offering made to Mahomet. After the embarkation of the French was completed, and their sails were hoisted, a signal from the land was given by the Bonnese, re-

questing a boat's crew to be sent ashore. A boat was accordingly manned and sent, and the cause of the signal was found to be, that a French artilleryman had been left behind in the hurry of embarkation, and the inhabitants, though far from secure themselves, had no wish that he should be included in the massacre. There was courage as well as humanity in this action, for the citizens who brought down this artilleryman to the sea-shore, and saw him into the boat, both came and went back under the fire of the besieging Arabs.

For more than a year after the first abandonment of Bona by the French, the little civic garrison continued heroically to resist the hostilities of the native tribes, and to refuse submission to the Bey of Constantine. In the beginning of July, 1831, General Berthezène, the then Governor of Algiers, learning that they were blockaded, and probably in want of provisions, sent

them a present of twenty sacks of biscuits, and a few more of rice, together with a cargo of provisions, which were offered for their purchase, at what the French considered moderate prices. The Bonnese accepted the present with many thanks, but they declined the provisions that were offered for sale, as they could import the same articles at a cheaper rate from Alexandria and Tunis: happily, their invaders were too barbarous to have a single galley at sea: the people of Bona had, therefore, to endure only a land-blockade.

But how did the poor devils, you will say, get money to purchase supplies from Egypt and Tunis after all their richest citizens had left them? This question is not perfectly insoluble. In the first place, let a Moor or an Arab pass for being ever so poor, and live ever so miserably, you can never be sure that he *is* really poor, or that he has not got a good deal of money

hid underground; and this was probably the case with the majority of the citizens of Bona, who were reckoned in the poorer class. In the next place, there are still some manufactories of cloth and other articles in Bona; and the desultory warfare of its besiegers, I believe, never entirely prevented a trade with the interior which carried the Bonnese exports into the interior, and brought back, I believe, even gold from the auriferous sands of the river Jummel, in the province of Constantina.

Bona thus continued to hold out, and the only mark of distrust in its own resources which it betrayed was, the sending a request to the Governor of Algiers for a small auxiliary force, to be accompanied with some arms and ammunition. The deputation, however, who brought this request, particularly insisted that no French soldiers should be sent, but only Mahometans in the French service. A hundred

and twenty-five Zouaves were accordingly selected at Algiers, and the stipulation respecting "no Frenchmen" was adhered to as far as the privates were concerned, but the twelve officers and subalterns were all French.

Every man was provided with a hundred and fifty European cartridges, besides forty thousand Algerine ones for the whole corps, and to these were added sixty grenades, fifty howitzers charged, a hundred muskets, and sixty complete uniforms. A distinguished officer, Captain Bigot, had the chief military command of this little force, whilst Lieutenant-Colonel Huder had in reality a superior authority, under the title of French consul at Bona. The expedition arrived on the 14th of September, 1831: its details have not sufficient importance that I should relate them to you, but, when I put them together in my own mind, they seem to me one of the thousand and one

proofs of the folly, and, what is worse, of the folly made more foolish by fraud, that has pervaded the French management of Africa. Really, if ants and beavers had risible faculties, they might well laugh at the lack of wisdom with which the affairs of men are conducted.

The French manifestly wished to make themselves masters of Bona, and, all things considered, I should say that they were justifiable in that desire; for, if their occupation of northern Africa is to be of any use to the cause of civilization, it is obvious that they must possess as much as possible of the Algerine Regency; but, if the possession of Bona was their wish, they should have also made it their determination, and the presence of a few frigates in the harbour would have instantly decided the matter, by laying the Bonnese at the mercy of the French for supplies by sea; whilst, at the same time, two or three battalions would

have delivered the place from all land-blockade, and would have imposed laws on the Moors and Arabs.

If, on the other hand, France thought herself bound, in conscience, merely to protect the people of Bona, and to leave them a free and independent community, they ought not to have sent a French officer at all amongst the Zouaves, and they should have instructed Colonel Huder to act in no other manner than as a mere consul. But they chose a disingenuous middle part. They pretended to treat the people of Bona as allies, independent of everything except the friendly assistance of the French; but the citizens very soon saw that Huder had come as a would-be commandant, and not as a consul. No blame, I believe, attaches personally to Huder—he only obeyed his instructions—but the intentions of the French not to aid, but to rule, became so evident, that the Turks, joined not only by

most of the citizens, but by the Arabs without, caballed against the French, and resolved to get rid of them. Prayers were offered up in the mosques, beseeching God to favour an insurrection against the Christians. The issue of the affair was this,—though a detachment of French military arrived to relieve the forlorn consul, he was shot through the head, in attempting to swim to a French vessel in the harbour—Captain Bigot was massacred in one of the streets—and the French, and all who were friendly to them, were chased out of Bona.

In March, 1832, the Government at Algiers equipped against this place a third expedition, the diminutive nature of which, I think, did as little credit to their sagacity as that of the last: but they, happily, selected leaders of uncommon skill and intrepidity, and, by almost miraculous good fortune, Bona was taken without

bloodshed. This success was attributed principally to three individuals, Captain D'Armandy of the artillery, Lieutenant Freart of the navy, and an adventurer named Yousouf or Joseph, then a captain of the Algerine chasseurs, whose history is rather romantic.*

Before I tell you the romance of Joseph's history, I ought to state the exploits, either real or but slightly, if at all, exaggerated, which have brought him into notice. An European by birth, he lived from childhood

* In a newspaper I have just seen, I find General Clausel mentioning the name of my friend Joseph with no small approbation. The general dates from Oran an account of a recent battle between the French and Abd-el-Kader, Prince of Mascara, in which poor Abd-el-Kader has been miserably cut up. General Clausel says, "The Chef d'Escadron Yousouf, whom I brought from Bona, was at the head of the native horsemen. Six times while pursuing Abd-el-Kader he succeeded in cutting him off from his men. He was afterwards separated from him by a distance of only forty paces, and if his horse had not been exhausted by a gallop of three hours, he would have certainly taken him prisoner."

to manhood at Tunis, and repairing from thence to Algiers, after the French had conquered it, he entered into their service and distinguished himself by his bravery. He was employed by General Clausel, and was one of his staff. The Duke of Rovigo afterwards appointed him to take a share in the last adventurous expedition to Bona, the citadel of which was manned by the Turkish soldiers already mentioned, who threatened a determined resistance. Here Joseph performed a feat which, unless its narrators unaccountably embellish it, has no parallel that I know of, except in the annals of ancient Greece or of chivalry—as for the story,

"I give it as 'twas given to me."

He climbed the walls of the citadel alone, threw himself amidst fourscore Turks, harangued them dauntlessly in their own language, which he had learned at Tunis, and by his eloquence persuaded

them to join the cause of the French and to make him (Yousouf) their commander.

Though I returned from Bona to Algiers with the hero himself, I am sorry to say that his temporary indisposition prevented me from getting a distinct account of his exploit from his own lips, and he failed to fulfil a promise which he made me, to write me out a full account of it in French, when we should arrive at Algiers. From all that I have heard, my impression is, that he undoubtedly scaled the walls of the Kasbah, but whether his escalade was supported by followers, to back his eloquence, as I suspect it was, I cannot determine. At all events, the enterprise was consummately heroic. Joseph was rewarded for it by an appointment to command the Turkish garrison, and he admitted many French within the citadel walls. He had not, however, been long in his authority, when he discovered that the Turks were conspiring to

assassinate him, and also to massacre all the French in the town as well as in the Kasbah.

On this intelligence, he went immediately to Captain D'Armandy, warned him of the danger, and declared to him he knew but one means of warding it off. "I must march out of the citadel," he said, "with all my Turks." "But the Turks will kill you," replied D'Armandy. "And what if they do?" replied Yousouf; "I shall still have time enough to spike the artillery at the marine. I shall die, I foresee, but you will be saved; and the French colours will continue to float over Bona!" He had scarcely uttered these words, when he sallied from the fort at the head of his Turks, and the gates were instantly shut behind him. After descending to the bottom of the town, Joseph halted his troops and addressed them thus:—"I know very well," he said, "that there are traitors among you,

who have conspired to despatch me, and that the night after this day, was the time appointed for executing your infamous project; but I know who are the guiltiest in this conspiracy, and now let them strike—if they dare to lift a hand against their commander." Then, turning to one of the troop, he said, "You are one of the guilty!" and he shot him dead on the spot. His resolution overawed the conspirators; the whole troop fell on their knees and vowed to him a fidelity from which they have never swerved.

Joseph was born in the island of Elba, probably about the year 1807. He remembers, in 1811, when he was a little boy, to have seen the Emperor Napoleon, who noticed him and patted his head. He is a handsome man, and, with his intelligent countenance, must have been an exceedingly interesting boy. He gives out that he has no recollection of his family, from

which it must be inferred either that his parents died in his absolute infancy, and that he was an orphan in the hands of guardians; or, that he has no wish to record his ancestors, possibly intending to set up for an ancestor himself. I lean to the latter supposition, because he lived in Elba long enough to be fit for school, and a child of that age was not likely to be perfectly ignorant about his parents. Be that as it may, he was embarked for Florence, where he was to have been placed at college, being then some seven or eight years old; but the vessel that bore him, falling in with a Morocco corsair, our little hero was taken to Tunis, and became the property of the Bey, in whose palace he was placed, and made a Mussulman—"*à l'improviste.*" Here his education, though different from what it would have been at Florence, was not neglected. He made rapid progress in the Turkish, Spanish, and Arabic lan-

guages; and, instead of learning the logic of Aristotle, he became a proficient in the logic of the sabre. At the age of manhood, he was an accomplished soldier, and he accompanied the Dey of Tunis in an expedition as far as the desert, for the collection of those *voluntary* taxes, which the loving subjects of the Dey always contribute at the point of the sword. He returned with a high character,

"Dreaded in battle and loved in hall;"

and being exceedingly handsome, he captivated the heart of one of the daughters of the Dey.

All this is charming, you will say—but is it all true? Yes, I own to you, it looks like a parody on that beautiful French song "Le Beau Fernand aima la fille d'un Roi Maure," to which we have both listened with admiration; but I fully believe the story of Joseph's courtship of the Moorish princess; and it is the more credible from

the circumstance, that the Bey of Tunis has one hundred and fifty daughters constantly living in his palace. Joseph and his princess met and fell madly in love, and, as it was leap-year, she made the first proposals. According to the Tunisian version of the story, they were one day surprised at their place of interview by a eunuch of the palace, whom Joseph took the bold resolution of following into the adjacent garden, and, as dead men tell no tales, of cutting off his head. Having disposed of the body, so says the story, by throwing it into a deep fish-pond, he next day met his sweetheart, who was a prey to the liveliest terrors; but, to assuage them, he opened a press in his chamber and showed her the head of the spy—"Behold! madam," he said, at least they say that he said; "there are the eyes that looked upon our love, and there are the lips that would have revealed it." But melo-dramatic and beautiful as this latter

part of the story is, I consider it as apocryphal. At least, Yousouf himself protested to me, in the strongest terms, that the murder and the press-scene were sheer fictions.

I made his acquaintance on board the steamer in returning to Algiers. I was struck with his appearance, and the vivid expression of his countenance; but, though I will not call him absolutely a dandy, his manners certainly struck me as exhibiting no deficiency in self-estimation. How his amour was discovered, I know not, but discovered it was; and Yousouf, finding that his presence could be dispensed with at court, decamped as speedily and as secretly as he could. The Consul of France assisted him in his escape.

In the May of 1830, there lay in the roadstead a French brig, to which a boat was got ready for conveying him; but five tchausses (Moorish officers of police, next

in dignity to the hangman,) were posted on the shore to speak a quiet word with him before embarking. Yousouf, stealing along concealed pathways, remarked that those tchausses had piled their arms on a rock at the sea-side. He got close to them unobserved, he sprang on them like a cat upon vermin, poked at them with his yatagan till they all ran helter skelter, then tumbled their arms into the sea and leaped into his boat. All this was done in a few moments. The brig that received him was under orders to join the fleet which was to invade Algiers. He was welcomed by the French army, and speedily rose to distinction. But what became of his poor dear princess? Alas! I cannot tell you:—the first time, however, that I go to Tunis, I will make the strictest inquiries respecting her.

LETTER XVIII.

French African Company—Coral—Ancient opinions respecting it—Natural History of Coral—Period of the Coral Fishery in the Mediterranean—Mode of fishing it up—Remarks of Spallanzani—Sicilian Coral Fishers—History of the French Coral Fishery—Estimated revenue that might be derived from its cultivation—Supply from the Red Sea—Coral much esteemed among the Orientals—Formation of Coral Reefs—Remarkable properties of the Coral Insect.

More than a century before the conquest of Algiers and down to a comparatively recent period, the French had an African Company, who, with factories at different places on the coast, rented from the Algerine government a monopoly for the exportation of wool and grain, as well as for the fishery of coral which was principally conducted at Bona.

In the voyage thither, I sometimes amused

myself with building castles, not in the air, but under water. I am a great lover of submarine prospects. Often in my boyhood, when the day has been bright and the sea transparent, I have sat by the hour on a Highland rock admiring the golden sands, the emerald weeds, and the silver shells at the bottom of the bay beneath, till, dreaming about the grottoes of the Nereids, I would not have exchanged my pleasure for that of a connoisseur poring over a landscape by Claude, or Poussin. Enchanting Nature! thy beauty is not only in heaven and earth, but in the waters under our feet. How magnificent a medium of vision is the pellucid sea! Is it not like poetry, that embellishes every object we contemplate?

On the way to Bona, I recalled old and pleasing recollections of voyagers who describe the splendour of coral groves, particularly as they are seen on the shores of

the Red Sea when its water is still; and though I was not going so far as the Red Sea, yet I flattered myself that I might enjoy some such spectacle on the shores of the Mediterranean. Well, and got you a sight of any coral groves, or pretty mermaids sporting among them? No, indeed I must confess I came at the wrong time to see the coral-fishery; and, as to groves and mermaids, on the only morning I could spare to look out for them, the sea was not so smooth or civil as to give me a sight of either. Indeed, I am told that nothing is so rare as the sight of a mermaid on that coast, his marine majesty being as jealous as a Moor about his females.

I however picked up some information which was new to me, and which I hope you will not think uninteresting, respecting that singular production of nature—coral. In our own remembrance, a bit of that substance used to be one of the first

chorage under the sea; that it has a trunk as well as branches, and that the last layers of these are less solid than the inner ones, set down the former, that is, the last layers, as the bark of the coral-tree. Even as late as the last century, the Count de Marsigli, an eminent naturalist of Italy, having remarked some white little bits of substance shooting out of coral which had been recently brought out of the sea, pronounced them to be the flowers of the coral plant. After this, the botanists for a long time considered the vegetable nature of this production to be unquestionable, till the French naturalist, Peyssonnel, gained himself just celebrity by the single discovery that coral is not a vegetable, and that the imagined blossoms are really animals. His proofs to this effect are now considered as irrefragable; but his theory was for some time discountenanced by Reaumur himself, who was looked up to at that time as

the chief of natural historians. A discovery, however, somewhat analogous to Peyssonnel's—namely, that by Trembly, of the polypus in fresh water—recalled the attention of the scientific to the theory of the former philosopher: the Academy of Sciences sent two of their members, Messrs. Guettard and Jussieu, to the coast where coral was fished, and those eminent men confirmed Peyssonnel's assertion, that these little floriform things are living creatures.

Before I left Bona, a manuscript essay on the natural history of coral was offered to me for sale, and I purchased it. Though the vender, who pretended to have written it himself, was a shrewd-looking fellow, and evidently was well acquainted with the coral fishery, I had not read much of the work when I found that it could not be his composition. As a scientific article, it is a perfect model of concinnity and clearness; brief without abruptness, and full without super-

fluity. I derived so much pleasure from reading this essay, that I have had half a mind to translate it for you; but it contains matter that would cover several sheets, and yet is too compact to bear abridgment *.

The time for the coral fishery in the Mediterranean is from the middle of April to the end of July. It is fished up in the following way. There are generally seven men to a boat, six of whom manage it, whilst one is the fisher. The machinery employed for tearing the coral from the bottom of the sea consists first of all of two beams crossed and tightly fixed at right angles to each other, with a leaden weight to press them down; to these beams they fasten a great quantity of hemp loosely twisted, among which they mix strong nets. When the machine has been let down into the sea, and the coral is thought sufficiently

* I have since found that it is an article by M. de Blainville, in a recently published Philosophical Dictionary.

entangled in the hemp and nets, they draw it out by a rope which they unwind according to the depth, and which sometimes requires half a dozen boats to draw it. The operation is toilsome, and even attended with danger.

Spallanzani says that the hollows and caverns of rocks are the places, from which they endeavour to bring up the coral with their nets; not but that it likewise grows out of these and on the sides of rocks, but usually in less quantity.

As to the position in which coral chiefly loves to grow—for the insect seems to build his fortification not from chance, but from a desire for security against the agitation of the sea—it seems agreed, that the coral prefers a southern aspect. The depth at which it grows varies enormously, from ten feet to seven hundred and fifty; it may even grow farther beneath the sea's surface

for aught that is known, but to fish it from a greater depth would be too laborious.

It is further remarked, that the deeper coral grows in the sea the smaller it is. "This observation," says Spallanzani, "appears to be universal and constant. To what," he continues, "are we to attribute this difference? Were coral brought up only from places to which the heat, or at least the light of the sun, can penetrate, we might suspect that one or other of those two principles might more or less influence its growth. But it appears certain that corals grow even on those bottoms to which not an atom of solar heat, much less of light can penetrate, if there be any accuracy in the calculations of a celebrated philosopher, who asserts that the light of the sun does not enter deeper into the water than six hundred feet, and that his heat does not reach to a quarter of that depth." Yet

coral is sometimes fished up, according to the observations of Marsigli, from a depth of seven hundred and fifty feet.

If we reject these two principles as insufficient, it will be very difficult to discover what other can cause the greater growth of coral at a less depth. "I have sometimes thought," Spallanzani continues, "that the pressure of water at these great depths might possibly be an impediment to its development; but this idea by no means accords with the birth and growth of numerous minute plants and worms not inferior in the delicacy and tenderness of their bodies to the polypi of the coral, at equally low submarine situations."

The coral on the coast of Barbary, it appears, is larger than that of Messina; but the latter, when it is red, has a more vivid colour.

Spallanzani adds, "that the Sicilian fishers divide the whole tract in which they

seek for coral into ten parts. Every year they fish only in one of these parts, and then do not fish for it again until ten years have elapsed. This interval of time they think necessary for the coral to acquire its full growth in height and consistence. When they transgress this law, they find, in fact, the coral smaller and of less consistence, and the intensity of the colour is also always in proportion to the number of years in which they have desisted from fishing. When the ten years have elapsed, they believe that the coral no longer increases in height, but only in thickness: this increase, however, has its limits, never exceeding a third part beyond the common size."

From all that I can learn, the old French African Company derived no great profits from the fishery of this article at Bona and their adjacent factories, and the only benefit resulting to France was, that it afforded

a nursery for a few hundred seamen. The fishers were generally natives of the south of France, who were furnished with provisions and utensils, and bound to deliver the whole product of their industry at a stipulated price; but, both their agents and their fishers, cheated the Company. The latter sold their finest pieces of coral at sea, and brought ashore only those of an inferior quality.

In 1793, the revolutionary government of France attempted to give new vigour to the coral fishery, and, finding a lack of French hands, they employed some hundreds of Italian mariners; but the latter, after the honest example of their predecessors, continued to fish more for their own benefit than for that of their employers. By and bye Napoleon's expedition to Egypt set him at war with all the Barbary powers, and put a stop to all the commercial specu-

lations of France on the north of Africa, where her company was ruined, and its agents clapped in irons. In 1805, a peace was concluded with the Dey of Algiers, and a new attempt was made to renovate the fishery, but without success. A few years afterwards, it came into the hands of the English, and their sagacity revived it. They adopted a new mode of remunerating the fishers, and some two hundred thousand pounds sterling became the annual profit of the fishery. In 1817, the fishery was once more cultivated by the French, and continued to be so down to the time of their quarrel with Algiers, but with decreasing advantage, owing to a great reduction in the price of coral itself *.

* In stating these views as to the coral fishery I may have failed, for want of clearness in my language, to have explained the consistency of two assertions which are nevertheless reconcileable—"Coral has fallen in value." It

"The conquest of Algiers," says Genty De Bussy, "which ought to have benefited the coral fishery, appears to have been almost its death-blow. The few ship-owners who show themselves on the coast in this trade have to borrow money at usurious interest; the coral is low in value and of difficult sale, so it is no wonder that the fishers implore a diminution or an abolition of the charges that weigh upon them."

"France," he continues, "being now mistress of all the coasts which contain coral, there cannot be two opinions about its being her interest to encourage the fishery of it;" and he thinks that the best means of encouraging it would be, since native adventurers are so reluctant to come,

fell very much in consequence of the poverty in Eastern countries, that resulted from pestilence; but the price and demand are now increasing, and it would be policy in France to encourage the fishery of it.

to encourage foreign fishers by the reduction of rent, and only to confine their exportation of it to France.

At the same time, this writer, whose work on the statistics of the conquered Regency is at once copious and authoritative, though he wishes to see a great many coral-fishers on the coast, very justly adverts to the fact, that the coral itself would be exhausted or much deteriorated by over-crowded competition, and that the number of vessels should therefore be limited, as well as that the fishery should be pursued only successively in particular stations, in order to give the article due time to reproduce itself. Luckily it is found that there are coral beds here and there along the whole coast from Bona, and the borders of Tunis on the east, almost to the confines of Morocco in the opposite direction. Among so many stations, it would be easy to afford several years of repose to some of them, and to

cultivate the rest with great profit. France, I should think, might thus derive from coral alone above 200,000*l.* a-year, or about a fifth of all the money that is requisite to support her colony.

It is a curious fact, that though the Red Sea abounds in coral, it is inadequate to supply the constant demand for this article in the East. Loads of it are constantly transported from Europe to Alexandria and Aleppo, and from thence to Bagdad, through which place it reaches Persia and India. The cholera, it is true, by spreading poverty and thinning population in eastern countries, lately checked the coral trade in that quarter; but the demand is now reviving, and you have only to look at all the arms, coffers, and trinkets that come from the East, to see what a favourite coral is among the Orientals—adorning at once the sword-belts of their warriors, and the necks of their women.

Do not hypercritically chide me, for dwelling so long on the subject of this substance. A bit of ornament and a bauble it is, I grant you; but remember that the coral-insect, though a tiny little gentleman, is more important in one respect than Columbus himself. He is not a finder of islands and continents, but a founder of them. This thing, though but recently admitted to be a living creature, encroaches on the ocean itself—diminishes his dominion—increases the proportion of habitable land on our planet, and contributes with the submarine volcano to change the aspect of the globe. The volcano, as an agent of nature, does his business with terrible despatch; he heaves up the bottom of the sea to a moderate distance from its surface, and there leaves a submarine rocky bank; but, in a thousand instances, this bank would never emerge from the ocean as an island, unless the little coral-insect set to work in

building his house upon every hard substance that he can find at the bottom of the sea.

When the first generation of these animalcules ceases to live, their structures adhere to each other by virtue either of the glutinous remains within them, or of some property in salt water, and the interstices being gradually filled up by sand and shells, a mass of rock is at length formed. Future races of these animalcules erect their habitations upon the rising bank, and die in their turn, to increase, but principally to elevate this monument of their wonderful labours. An able voyager *, who has written on the formation of coral-reefs, observes, that "the care taken to work perpendicularly in the earlier stages, marks a surprising instinct in these diminutive creatures; for, when their wall of coral,

* Captain Flinders.

which is erected for the most part in situations where the winds are constant, is arrived at the surface, it affords a shelter, to the leeward of which their infant colonies may be safely sent."

To be constantly covered with water seems to be necessary to the existence of the coral insects; and, therefore, their habitations are always under the sea's surface. But, above their habitations, matter accumulates till it overtops the waves at low water, and this matter, being exposed to the action of the air, loses its adhesive property, salt-plants take root upon it, and a soil begins to be formed. Ere long, the new bank is visited by the sea-bird; by and bye, the nut of the cocoa or the pandanus is thrown ashore, and the wearied land-bird, resting his wings on the soil, deposits on it the seed of herbs and trees. Every tide and every gale adds something to the bank, and it gradually spreads into

an island of luxuriant vegetation. Man comes at last to take possession of the new estate, and he may well say that the architecture of an insect has laid the foundation of his property.

LETTER XIX.

Return from Bona to Algiers—Insolence of the Boatmen—Violent Storms — Numerous Wrecks — The French Cobbler—Admiral Bretonnière and the Moniteur Algerien—Intrepidity of an English Captain—The Eclaireur Steam Ship—Heart-rending Spectacle —The Vessel succeeds in getting into Algiers—Anecdote of one of Mr. St. John's Daughters—Quotation from Æschylus.

February 19, 1835.

I KNOW not what I can tell you of my adventures in returning from Bona to Algiers, unless you will excuse me for recording an obligation that I owed to the Lieutenant of the steamer in which I embarked. To carry me out to that steamer with my servant and luggage, I hired a boat with three boatmen, to whom, on coming aboard, I offered as many francs for the trouble of rowing me about the dis-

tance of a stone-cast. One of the knaves followed me up to the deck, and, throwing down the money, begged leave to assure me that I was no gentleman. I coolly picked up my silver, collared the fellow, took him before the lieutenant, and explained the cause of our dispute. The lieutenant, like a second Daniel, gave judgment against my adversary. "You rascal!" said he to him, "have you dared to refuse what is three times your fare? But your insolence shall be punished." He then seized him by the shoulders, turned him round, and gave him three of the handsomest kicks that I ever saw bestowed on the after-part of a human body. In a general view, I disapprove of man kicking his brother man; but here there was a fair exception to the rule. I had justice on my side, and, with the picked-up francs in my hand, I felt that I had "*stooped to conquer.*" I gave them to the knave, and added,

"Remember not to keep the three kicks that you have got, any more than the three francs, all to yourself; two of them are due to your companions."

When I look to the date of this letter, I am afraid that, before it reaches you, you will have been alarmed at my silence. During the two past weeks, no packet has sailed for France; the intercourse with Europe has been stopped by such tempests, as even the stormy winter of Algiers has not witnessed for several seasons. The 11th and 12th of February were memorable days. On the morning of the former day, about one A.M., I was awakened by the howling of the wind;—

> "That night a child might understand
> The De'il had business on his hand"—

and, accordingly, the De'il was very busy next day; for, after having wrecked four teen ships at Bona and Bougia, he paid us a visit, and the storm has smashed one-and-

twenty vessels in the harbour, or, I should rather say, the roadstead, of Algiers—for, properly speaking, there is no protecting harbour. A pier, the improved erection of which is said to have cost the French a million of francs, or forty thousand pounds, has been swept away like a loaf of sugar; and it is calculated that the entire loss by these gales will amount to three times that sum. But, what is most deplorable, fourteen human beings have perished.

Unable to get any repose on the awful night of the 11th, I dressed myself and got up to the house-top, where I could keep my feet only by clinging to the breast-work. The moon hung low, and faintly reddened the creamy whiteness of the boiling deep. As the day advanced, the north-west wind grew, if possible, more furious, and the wrecks of seven vessels came in by fragments to the beach below the town. In spite of the tremendous surf,

there were persons hardy enough to venture their lives in getting goods from the wrecked vessels. A poor French cobbler of Algiers, in imitation of the saint and patron of his trade, King Crispin *, seeing the "Troia gaza per undas," swam out to the tempting treasure, and *came to his last.*

Nine Swedes belonging to a Russian ship were drowned in their boat within sight of us, and a French captain of artillery, a much-lamented young man, perished in bravely attempting to save them. Many honourable traits of French courage and humanity have been shown on this occasion, and it was quite proper that the 'Moniteur Algerien' should record them; but there was surely no necessity for subjoining the following anecdote respecting Ad-

* King Crispin, the saint of the shoemakers, was drowned in consequence of plunging into a river, down the stream of which a dead horse was floating, which his Sutoric Majesty mistook for a huge ball of rosin.—*Vide Sylburgius de Gestis Regum.*

miral Bretonnière as a proof of his sagacity. That worthy officer, it seems, was going down to the beach wrapped up in his great coat, when he had nearly been blown into the sea, coat and all; but luckily he met in his way a cannon fixed erect in the ground, and he had actually "*the presence of mind*," says the 'Moniteur,' "to save himself by clasping this cannon with both his hands." Without questioning the Admiral's sagacity, why compliment him on doing what any creature human or simious, would have done in the same circumstances?

One glorious instance of intrepidity was given, I am happy to say, by an Englishman. The French have not published it, but they speak of it with due and high admiration. The captain of a British merchantman, whose name I am sorry I omitted to learn, though he was pointed out to me, had confidence enough in his

own seamanship to weather the whole storm, and, when a boat was sent out to bring him ashore, he calmly said, "that it was his duty to save the ship and cargo if he could, and that he would do his duty." His vessel, a puny-looking thing of some fifty tons, had a crew of five men, four of whom he sent ashore, and retained only one sailor, besides his own son, a boy only ten years old. "Why retain the poor child?" you will say. I tell you he was no poor child, but a noble boy, and he persisted in refusing to leave his father.

Nor was this a freak of rashness on the part of the captain, but an act of cool and calculating bravery. He knew the strength of his little brig, and trusted to the tenacity of both his anchors. He even reckoned that he should be safe with one of them, should it be necessary to cut the cable of the other. This manœuvre eventually became necessary. During those

two awful days, the main cause of destruction to the ships was their running foul of each other; accordingly, when one or two of the miserable drifting wrecks were coming down, and ready to bump him to destruction, he cut his cable and swung out of bumping reach.

When I saw this brave mariner and his boy, the countenance of the former struck me by its expression of mildness almost amounting to simplicity: it reminded me of one of Morland's best pictures of an English peasant.

Yet, with all my pride in our native seamen, I have been no indifferent witness to the sufferings and fortitude of those of France. The Eclaireur steam-ship, in which I came from Bona, had gone again thither, and, coming back, reached Algiers on the second day of the storm. Never shall I forget my sensations at seeing this gallant vessel engaged in a combat with

the elements, which every spectator regarded as utterly hopeless. The spray flashed over her so as to make us believe at times that her hull was irrecoverably under water. Again she rose in sight, but again the ruffian waves, like assassins shouldering their victim, whirled her back from her course. To think she had human beings on board was sufficiently painful; but to those who had acquaintances and friends among the seemingly-devoted sufferers, the spectacle was heart-rending.

For my own part, I had had but a short acquaintance with the officers of the Eclaireur; but they had shown me every possible civility, and I felt for them as for friends. At last, in spite of all difficulties, they got to anchor off Cape Matifou; but it was still uncertain there, whether her anchorage would continue firm, or the ship's timbers keep together. Rumour says that the highest marine authority at

Algiers signalled a command to them to run in upon the sands of Cape Matifou, about a league below the town; an order which was tantamount to bidding them drown themselves. The captain, however, knew better: he rode at anchor till the tempest somewhat abated, and at last succeeded in getting into Algiers. Happily no lives were lost on board the Eclaireur; but she could only be brought in, in a state so nearly approaching to a wreck, that it has not been thought expedient to repair her. She is English-built; and I doubt if French carpenters are up to the skill of repairing a steamer. Be this as it may, the unfortunate captain, though there is not a shadow of reflection on his character, retains only his rank in the service, and, for the present, loses his livelihood.

During those terrible days—you may easily suppose that we had scarcely any other subject of interest or conversation in

Mr. St. John's house than the fate of our fellow-creatures at sea—one of his beautiful little daughters, about seven years old, came to her mother in the crisis of the danger, and said, with tears in her eyes, "Mamma, I wish to pray for these sufferers in the ships, but I know not how to compose a prayer—do put words together for me that I may get them by heart, and pray to God for the poor people."

Now that the storm is overblown, I have leisure to deliberate what I shall next do with my humble self. As I wish to see as much as possible of the Algerine Regency, I should gladly venture once more into the inland country as far as Constantina, if it were possible either to travel unprotected, or to find a protecting convoy: but it would have been safer fifty years ago than it is at present, for any European to have penetrated so far from the coast as Constantina. My object must therefore be to get to Oran,

the farthest western point of the Regency of which the French have taken possession, since it is accessible by sea. The sea, however, has of late left no very seducing impression on my mind; and, although at the moment I am writing he reminds me of the glorious words of Æschylus, "*ποντίων τε κυμάτων Ἀνηριθμον γελασμα**"—whilst his waves "interminably wreathe their crisped smiles"—yet, I cannot think of immediately trusting myself to his hospitality, and shall accordingly tarry a little longer at Algiers.

* May a thousand curses light on the German critic who first substituted *κἀχλασμὰ* for *γελασμα* in this inimitable passage of the Prometheus!

LETTER XX.

What profit will France make by her conquest of Algiers?—Expenses of the Colony—The French Army—The cost to France at present uncertain—The confiscation of the Dey's Treasury—Convention made at the surrender of Algiers—The Turks transported out of the country in contravention of the Treaty—No proofs alleged of a Turkish conspiracy—First Decree of General Clausel—Effects of the Dey and of the Beys put under sequestration—Estates of all absent Turks sequestrated by a new Decree—Baron Pichon reprobates the Decrees—M. Genty de Bussy modifies his censure of them—French injustice—Mischievous conduct of the Soldiers—Funds proceeding from Legacies for religious and charitable purposes respected amongst the Algerines—The Institutions of Mecca and Medina—Christians as well as Mussulmen, objects of their charity—The twice a-week distribution of Alms—Demolition of the largest Mosque in Algiers by the French—Considerations on the policy of the Decrees of Sequestration.

I COULD easily transcribe for you long comparative statements of the expenses and the receipts of the French Colonial Go-

vernment here, as well as tables of the shipping, and of the exports and imports of all the ports in the Regency; and, if the colony were in a settled condition, such documents though dry reading, would be well worth studying as the means of solving the grand problem, namely, what profit will France make by her conquest of Algiers? Things, however, are not in a settled condition. I have still, to be sure, the same general impression that their national pride will induce the French to retain the country, and to penetrate from its littoral into its interior as far as they can; and I have still a further general belief, that by good management a perspective of splendid though remote advantages might be opened to France, and to the civilized world at large, from the French possession of the Regency. But you must take this opinion as a guess, not as a dogma; for I repeat that things are not in a settled condition.

The public feeling of France itself, as to the advisableness of retaining Algiers, is divided between pride and frugality; and how the struggle is to end will depend upon many contingencies. Among these we may reckon the chief to be, the balance of accounts from year to year, as to the expenses and receipts of the colony. Let us hear, then, perhaps you will say, how much on the one hand the colony costs France for soldiers and the civil administration; and, on the other hand, how much it yields in the shape of customs, tolls, taxes on markets, and on the natives, &c. &c.

As to the expense of the French army in Algiers, that must depend upon its number. At the time I write, the officers whom I have consulted compute it, generally, at twenty-three thousand*. Take that esti-

* Mons. Genty de Bussy states the whole effective force of the army at 31,410 on the 1st of January, 1834.

mate, and compute the expense of every soldier at 35*l.* a-year, and the result will be 805,000*l.* sterling. But when I recollect the fact that a British War Minister once expressed to me his belief, that what with ordnance, hospitals, officering, accoutrements, ammunition, &c., our soldiers cost not less to the nation than 80*l.* annually per head, I cannot believe that France maintains her military, (in Algiers at least,) all things included, at less than one-half of that sum. The expense, therefore, to France in the event of her being obliged to maintain twenty-three thousand fighting men in the Regency, would exceed a million sterling a-year, besides the cost of her civil government.

Query, would this force be sufficient to over-run the country and to keep possession of it? I am no military man, but I would stake my life on the truth of the opinion, that, to sweep and keep the country, Na-

poleon himself, if alive, would demand double that number. It is wandering from the question to talk of the British retaining Hindostan with twenty and some odd thousand British troops; for the Kabyles and Arabs are not Hindoos, and we have two hundred thousand native Indian troops of the most warlike caste in our service. No doubt, the French might keep hold of Algiers, Oran, Bougia and Bona, and a few miles round those cities, with fifteen thousand men. But who knows what their policy will be in this respect? and who therefore can settle the question of what the military expense of retaining this Regency will be to France.

It thus seems to me to be a matter if not of vague, at least of wide, calculation how much the possession of Algiers will cost France in the way of pecuniary outlay. The colony may ere long cost her half a million sterling a-year, or it may cost her

two millions. This contingency depends on other contingencies; and I should say the same thing of the profits that may result and partially meet that outlay. Suppose I tell you, for instance, on the authority of Genty de Bussy, that the French Colonial Government of Algiers derived from all its resources in the colony, namely, from the public domains, the custom-house dues, the post-office, the police fines, the monopoly of hides, the sale of coals, the impositions on the natives, and some other items, the sum of 1,144,664 francs and 78 centimes, within the first six months of the year, 1834—and, by fair calculation, double that sum during the entire year: still, this information is far from guiding us to any certain conclusions as to how much may be the future receipts of the colony. The importation customs depend considerably on the size of the army; the tolls and exportation duties

depend on the friendliness or hostility of the natives. Every thing, in fact, depends on contingencies, about which conjecture must go to sea without a star or a compass.

The first profit which France derived from the conquest of Algiers was, the confiscation of the Dey's treasury; and to this acquisition I can see no fair objection, conceiving as I do, that her attack on the pirate chief was perfectly justifiable; yet, still it behoved her to use her victory on the principles of civilized nations, and sacredly to respect the faith of treaties. Have the French done this? Certainly not! They have seized on some profits which are forbidden fruits in fair warfare, and they show a mean hankering after other extortions, which they have neither the effrontery to execute, nor the conscientiousness to forego. I say this as a man, and not as an Englishman; for England, although her colonial policy has been generally wiser

than that of France, has no right to call herself sinless in Africa—as the hapless Caffres can bear witness: but I have a right to speak on this subject as a citizen of the world.

By the convention made at the surrender of Algiers to the French, the Dey was permitted to depart with all his private property. By the words "*richesses personnelles*," in the second article of the treaty, it was no doubt indicated that he was to leave behind him his state-treasures, which were public property; but it was announced distinctly, that all the inhabitants, civil and military, were to be protected in their property, trade, industry, and religion. Surely, by any honest interpretation of this treaty, the Turks remaining at Algiers came within its protection; but the French had scarcely fixed themselves in the city, when the Governor, General Bourmont, ordered a general arrestation of the Turks—tore

them from their wives and families—and, putting them on shipboard, caused them to be transported out of the country. It was *rumoured* that those Turks were conspiring against the French, but as Sidy Hamdan, in relating this affair, very justly remarks—"Here was a handful of men who a few days before had possessed arms, ammunition, artillery, the castle of the Cassaba, and other forts—they had an army and treasures to support them, and the Beys of the provinces on their side: yet, with all these advantages, they had preferred surrendering to France to continuing a hopeless struggle.

"Now that the tables were turned—now that they were without arms, ammunition, or a single stronghold—how improbable it is that men with brains in their heads should think of regaining in their weakness what they had given up in their strength!" But there was a *rumour* of a

conspiracy brought to General Bourmont by some of the lowest scum of the Jews and Mussulmans, who were paid for their espionnage—and we all know the skill of spies to forge treason where they cannot find it. In so grave a matter, however, as the banishment of those men, justice demands proofs and not *rumour*—and of proof or public trial ,not a shadow was exhibited in their case.

In 1832, the French, for the first time, declared, that they had documents of a native conspiracy, which the then Governor General, a most impartial judge to be sure, considered authentic; and by a charitably strained inference it was concluded, that all Turks whatsoever must have been concerned in it. Even granting that conclusion, however, it is clear that those Turks were condemned and punished two years before a tittle of proof was alleged against them.

When the tri-color was substituted for the white flag at Algiers, the natives found no amendment in the colour of French domination. The first decree of General Clausel, dated the 8th of September, puts under sequestration the effects which had belonged to the late Dey—(by these effects is meant immoveable property, for the public treasury had already been secured)—the effects also of the Beys, or provincial governors, as well as those of the departed Turks, and the funds of a corporation, called that of Mecca and Medina. A second decree of the same Governor dated December 7, 1830, sequestrates the houses, magazines, manors*, and establishments of all descriptions whatsoever, the revenues of which are appropriated to the mosques, or which may have any other special appropriations.

* I thus generally interpret the word "censives," which means manors entitled to quit rents.

The decree, it is obvious, lays its hands at once not only on the immoveable property of the Dey, which was a justifiable seizure, and on that of the Beys, which for aught that I know, was also excusable, but on the property of the departed Turks, and on that of all corporations—civil or religious—including even charitable institutions,—a proceeding of gross iniquity. In September, 1831, a new decree was issued by the then Governor for sequestrating the estates of all absent Turks, without hinting at the slightest discrimination between those who might be guilty or innocent. It is no wonder that the Baron Pichon, who appears a uniform advocate of the rights of the natives, should reprobate the above decrees; but I am agreeably surprised to find his opponent, Monsieur Genty de Bussy, making a liberal confession on the same subject, and blaming the

decree for making no distinction between the guiltless and the convicted refugees.

Monsieur Genty de Bussy, according to all accounts that I have heard of him, is not particularly troubled with a dyspeptic conscience; but he is too shrewd a man to be an out-and-out sophist in so glaring a case of injustice. He modifies, nevertheless, his censure of the decree by remarking that, in as far as it applied to Turks actually guilty of conspiring against France, it was perfectly lawful, since they were, in the fullest sense of the word, traitors. But I deny this position of M. Genty de Bussy. "Traitors" means persons who owe allegiance, and have renounced it. If, after the French had taken Algiers, they had treated the Turks with common justice, they would have owed them allegiance; but what allegiance had France a right to claim from men, whom she dragged from their homes

and gardens and drove into banishment, without a shadow of proof or the show of a trial? The French were the traitors, and not they.

It is well known that, for several days after the capture of the city, the Turks were insulted, kicked, and spit upon by the Jews wherever they found them. The poor Turks met in a body in order to petition the French Governor for protection, and they sent him a deputation to prefer their prayer; but, by a sad fatality, they chose for deputies some men who were either the spies of Bourmont, or at least who speculated on being rewarded for discovering new symptoms of Turkish treason; and those wretches, instead of bearing the petition of the Turks, went and told him that the Turks had congregated in order to raise an insurrection. This fact has been repeatedly stated to me by Moors, who were no friends of the Turks, and by impartial

foreign consuls. And this was bringing civilization into Africa, to try men by spies, and to condemn them without a hearing!

M. Genty de Bussy, in fact, assumes too much in partially apologizing for the above decree, when he alleges that there were guilty as well as innocent Turks among the absentees, whose estates were sequestrated. None of the absent Turks—whether they had been dragged on shipboard to be deported or had fled from Algiers in a panic, as I believe many of them did—*could* be guilty of treason towards a power which had broken all faith with them, and *to which they owed no fealty*. Allowing it even to be true, as the French publicly announced, that they had got indubitable documents, in 1832, of many Turks abroad being engaged in plots against the French, and call this treason if you will—still it is a treason proved a year later than the infamous decree which sequestrated all Turkish estates

indiscriminately. Nay, even go farther, and suppose that, in 1832, there was not one untreasonable Algerine Turk among the absentees, still what caused their absence, and what drove them into treason? It was French injustice; and the French, forsooth, are to punish the crime which they have themselves created!

I am told, however, by Frenchmen who, without justifying, would palliate this treatment of the Turks, that the decrees of governors are not laws till confirmed by the Home-Government; and that the banished Turks might still, by a proper appeal, get these sequestrations removed—but that they are barbarians, and have no notion of legal appeals! But, verily, this argument is worse than a barefaced mockery of justice. Does any man believe that these Turkish gentlemen, robbed in defiance of laws and faith of their estates, will ever be restored to them? I do not.

It seems like a retribution of Providence that these beautiful villas, thus wrenched from their owners, have yielded but little profit to the wrenchers. They are principally occupied by the military, and the French soldiers, wherever they have taken up their habitation, have made the houses uninhabitable to all future tenants, by cutting up the wood-work in order to make their fires. Some destruction in this way was unavoidable, but the troops amused themselves with superfluous tricks of mischief. I was told so, at least, by one of themselves; a *naïve* laughing corporal, who said to me, "After all, we are a sad set of fellows: I found my camarades, *les singes diables*, one day cutting down a tall, noble palm-tree, and for what purpose do you think?—why, to get at a bird's nest: but they got no living birds, for the nestlings were all killed by the fall."

The sequestrated immoveable property

of the Deys, the Beys, and the banished Turks comes all under the title of the "National Domain, or public property;" and it would seem that the French are disposed to give a sweeping extent of signification to that term: for the decrees of some of the governors of Algiers sequestrate the property of native corporations, civil as well as religious. The idea of sequestrating religious funds, has struck the French themselves as so impolitic and faithless, that Genty de Bussy has, like a wise man, deprecated the fulfilment of those decrees. But, for my own part, I can see nothing more unjustifiable in the sequestration of funds belonging to civil corporations than of those belonging to corporations that are religious. Algiers capitulated on a promise that the property, the commerce, and the industry of its inhabitants should be protected; and what sort of protection is this, which sequestrates the property of even

civil corporations? I grant, no doubt, that there is something more glaringly impolitic in alarming the natives about their religious corporations than about their lay ones; but the essential injustice is the same.

You will be surprised, perhaps, to hear of corporations, vested rights and funds, proceeding from legacies for religious and charitable purposes, having been respected from age to age among a people so despotically governed as the Algerines. But there were limits to the despotism even of a Dey of Algiers. It is true that when he took a fancy to a man's head, he generally succeeded in getting it removed from his shoulders; and afterwards he took the same care of the beheaded man's property that the conscientious bird takes of the silver spoon in the story of the "Maid and the Magpie." But the Dey could only be a civil and not a religious robber.

The Moors and the Turks in all the Regencies of Barbary, like all true believers in Mahometan countries, had a number of public foundations, both for piety and practical charity, which were enriched, from time to time, by gifts and legacies. Over these foundations Religion threw its guardian *ægis*, and Deys and Pashas were compelled to hold them in veneration.

The most important of these institutions is that of Mecca and Medina:—"It contributes to the expense of supporting mosques in those sacred cities; it distributes charity to the poor, and it makes advances to Mussulmans," says Genty de Bussy, "who wish to go as pilgrims to Mecca." But it is strange, considering the general clearness and accuracy of that gentleman, to find him, after he has made this statement, referring us to a document which contradicts it, on the subject of pilgrims

going to Mecca being assisted by the aforesaid institution.

This document is a series of questions addressed to the Mufti of Algiers respecting that endowment, together with the answers given to those questions.

One of the questions is, "*Do the Mussulmans of Algiers who go on a pilgrimage receive any assistance from the endowment of Mecca and Medina?* The answer is, simply, *No.*

The only way in which I can reconcile this seeming discrepancy, between De Bussy's statement and the document to which he refers, is by supposing that poor Mussulmans accidentally coming to Algiers from the holy cities may have been assisted to return home thither out of the Mecca and Medina fund; in which case, however, those paupers could hardly be called pilgrims from Algiers.

But the most curious fact that meets us in the examination of the Oukils, *i. e.* the

stewards of this Mahometan fund, by the French "*Intendant civil*," is, that *Christians* as well as Mussulmans were the objects of its charity.

Question put by the Intendant:—"In distributing the alms of this endowment, do you establish distinctions among the poor, or are the distributions made indiscriminately to all who present themselves?"

Answer:—"Alms are distributed to each according to the misery and destitution of the applicant; and the circumstances of the applicant are inquired into and appreciated by the Oukil."

Another question:—"Are there fixed periods for the distribution, and how are they regulated?"

Answer:—"There are fixed periods for the distribution of alms; namely, the mornings of Monday and Tuesday. The poor are divided into three classes; namely, the

men, the women, and the *Christians*—each of the three classes receives separately."

A charitable Algerine in the last century —honour be to his memory!—bequeathed a large sum to be laid out in bread for the Christian slaves on that day of the week when their allowance of food was the scantiest. It was probably to the religious protection of the above endowment that he confided this legacy.

Well, whilst I know your heart is thankful, that there are some redeeming traits in the Algerine character, let me not unintentionally lead you to too much indignation at the French, from supposing that they have cut off every stream of charity towards the poorest class of the natives. No: —the Baron Pichon describes the twice-a-week distribution of alms which he had himself seen; and which, I am confident, are still continued, though I have not wit-

nessed them. At these distributions the Oukil sits in public with two assessors: a troop of perhaps two thousand indigents—mostly women carrying or leading infants—defiles before him; and a pittance—would that I could say it was more, of about a sous and a half is doled out to each individual.

In the olden time, when a sheep cost but fifteen-pence at Algiers, this sum was, perhaps, not much less than an equivalent to the scantiest parish charity in England; but now that prices are raised, it is no wonder that the mendicants look gaunt. M. Pichon certainly means that this charity comes out of the Mecca endowment, for he says that the surplus, after the beggars have been served, is turned into the public treasury, and no longer goes to the Holy City, in order that the funds originally intended for a religious purpose may not be perverted from their destination, and em-

ployed in paying for intrigues and insurrections against the French. With equal justice and humanity the Baron remarks that the enemies of France, who are abroad among the Mussulmans, could, by no stretch of ingenuity, invent means of fomenting native discontents more efficacious than this iniquitous detention of funds appropriated to religion.

The French entered Algiers on the faith of the national religion being sacredly protected; but this tribute to Mecca is a vital part of Islamism. It is very well to talk of Mahometan superstition, and if the people of Algiers should choose to become Protestant Mahometans, let them get rid, if they will, of the tribute; but the French, without perjuring themselves, cannot interfere with the tribute as it is now established. And be it remarked, that, in outraging the religion of a Mussulman, you are not interfering merely with his super-

stitious dogmas, but with the whole sources of his moral consolations. The Koran is the Mussulman's code of laws and jurisprudence; the compass that guides his actions in this world, as well as his hopes towards the next.

It is but fair to say, that although I despair of ever seeing justice done to the expatriated Turks, I have hopes that the sequestration of the corporation funds will not be universally and permanently sanctioned by the French. Baron Pichon says, "That the sequestration on properties *having special appropriations* is only partial and nominal; that the funds for supporting the mosques of Algiers, for example, have never been taken possession of." So far so good; and though the name of mosques reminds me that one of the largest in the city was demolished by the French, and another converted into a Catholic church (of course without consulting the inhabit-

ants), yet for the former proceeding, violation of the treaty as it was, one can allow something like a palliation in looking at the improvement which it has made in Algiers. The demolition of the mosque and its adjacent buildings has enlarged the only public market-place in this gloomy city, and opened a view from it towards the sea; it has therefore made the town healthier as well as pleasanter. Moreover, as long as the African Commission continues,* I shall not consider the question of the sequestrations as hopelessly set at rest.

But, without denying to M. Genty de Bussy the merit of having generally spoken with truth and candour on this subject, I cannot quite agree with him, that the French Government stands exculpated in the whole affair. "The French Govern-

* A Board appointed to inquire into the state of the African colony, and to give in reports on the subject to Government.

ment," he says, "has *never* given its sanction to *all* the decrees of the Generals-in-Chief, or to the acts of the Intendants at Algiers." This is a vague sort of exculpation. It may be, that no one act of the French Government has sanctioned *all* the decrees of the Governors—at one sweep; but in September, 1831, did not the French Minister-of-War send to Algiers an order for the sale of all the onerous domains, with the exception of the property appropriated for the mosques of Mecca and Medina? He made no other exception to Clausel's decree of the 7th of December, 1830, which sequestrated the houses, magazines, manors, and all establishments whatsoever, under what title soever, *having special appropriations*. After this order of the War-minister, it is needless to speak of the French Government never having sanctioned those iniquitous sequestrations; but it is singular to find

Mons. Pichon, just after he has admitted the sequestration to be in part only nominal, immediately adding, "*Mais le séquestre existe sur les biens de Mecque et Medina.*" If he means anything by this sequestration, he surely means that it is real, and not nominal.

The truth seems to be, that in this meditated robbery of corporation property at Algiers, the French authorities on the spot have been about as timid as those at home, when they came to the practical point of executing the decree of 1830 and 1831. Monsieur de Bussy himself is amusingly honest on this subject; I cannot but laugh when I find him confessing, "The sequestration is quite a measure of exception, (*une mésure tout exceptionelle*)—a measure of public safety, in opposition to law (*étrangère au droit*), and which policy alone could make advisable." In other words, the apologist might have said, that, under certain

circumstances, *honesty is not the best policy —but policy is the best honesty.*

The Governor's decree of the 10th of June, though made public, and supported by a ministerial decision that came subsequently from Paris, has not received an entire execution. "At no period," he adds, "have the rules of sequestration been rigorously applied, *and it is only with a sort of timidity and groping that those who are engaged in this business have gone on.*"

Now, Frenchmen, if you will be rogues, put a bold face upon the business. Do as we did in England: when we heard of the Caffres being robbed of their cows, and bayoneted by our brave soldiers, our Members of Parliament went down to the House and maintained that the Caffres had been too mercifully used; but you are mealy-mouthed in this affair, and grope about in a game of blind-man's buff at cheatery.

Yet the French have, undoubtedly, done

some good at Algiers; and as I have dealt so freely with their delinquencies, it will be but fair, in my next letter, to describe to you some of their Institutions which promise to foster civilization, and, like the red streaks in the sky after a stormy evening, bespeak a pleasant to-morrow.

LETTER XXI.

Advantages to be derived from fostering a religious and commercial intercourse with Arabia—Policy of promoting Pilgrimages to Mecca—Inattention of the French Government to this subject—Promotion of the Medical and Surgical Art by the settlement of the French—Bagdad once the first Medical School in the World—Diseases of the Natives—The doctrine of Fatalism—Peculiarities of the Climate—Swampiness of the Metidja—Intention of the French to drain the marshes of the Regency—Number of Arabs who have received medical treatment, with a list of the various diseases—Civil Hospitals in a state of formation at Bona and Oran—The Algerine Moors better educated than is generally supposed in Europe—Algerine Schools—Statistic table of public tuition in 1834—The Jews more willing than the Moors to avail themselves of European instruction.

BEFORE I mention a few French institutions, which may be considered as the seeds of civilization in Africa, allow me to advert to some speculations which I find in that shrewd writer Genty de Bussy,

respecting the advantages which this colony might derive from fostering a religious and commercial intercourse between it and Arabia.

The pilgrimages to Mecca have been, in all ages of Islamism, a principal bond between Mahometan nations. It is but fair to believe that the promotion of piety was not the only object which the legislator had in view, when he enjoined those pilgrimages upon the faithful, but that he meant to civilize them by trade as well as to cement them by religion. At all events, in point of fact, commerce sprung up out of this religious institution.

A great many Mahometans used to visit Mecca, both from the Regencies of Barbary and more Western Africa, and returned to their homes with a halo of sanctity acquired by their pilgrimage, which placed them distinctly in the highest rank of society. They re-entered their native cities

in formal triumph:—grand functionaries and sovereigns themselves were the first to welcome them with honour and to load them with presents; processions went out to meet them, and flowers were strewn before them on their path.

Genty de Bussy remarks, as if it were a reproach to Christianity, that only a few Christians, and those few merely from curiosity, visit Jerusalem, whilst multitudes of Mahometans flock to Mecca from piety; but this establishes nothing as to the comparative sincerity of believers in the two faiths. Pilgrimage to Jerusalem is no where enjoined in the Gospel of Christ, nor even recommended by him;—he pronounced his kingdom not of this world. He came, therefore, to sanctify the earth in a spiritual, not a material sense—not like bigots falsely calling themselves his followers, who hold up their hands to consecrate some spot of dirt and clay, or the

stones and sticks that are built over it. His mission was to cleanse and consecrate the pure immortal substance of the human soul:—hence, pure Christianity is exalted and philosophical;—it enjoins no reverence to earthly localities, or to earthly relics.

With these conceptions of the superiority of Christian over Mahometan faith, I deny not your right to dispute abstractedly the propriety of favouring Mahometan pilgrimages to Mecca. But take the question practically, and let me ask you, if there be any probability of bringing these Arabs and Kabyles to be pure, *i. e.*, philosophical Christians? There is none. You might make Methodists and Jumpers of some of them, but that would not be making them pure Christians. Were you to suggest that, at all events, we ought to cleanse them of their Mahometan superstition, I should say no; for their Mahometanism,

at least, keeps them sober—and until you can make them pure Christians, better make them the best Mahometans you can than leave them irrational and irreligious barbarians. Such is almost the case of many of the Kabyles and Arabs. A sensible Moor of Algiers assured me that, for want of intercourse with more civilized believers, whole native tribes, though believers in the Koran, are only nominal Mahometans, and in practice fierce and immoral savages. Therefore, I say, make the best Mahometans that you can of the Africans; and the best way to civilize them is to promote pilgrimages to Mecca, and the commerce, which from thence accrues would also be promoted.

A portion of the Algerine pilgrims to Mecca used to join the caravans that set out from Morocco, and which, traversing the sea of sand from west to east, came at last to encamp under the walls of Cairo.

But the Arabs who are called Fellahs, *i. e.*, those who cultivate the fertile plains enclosed between the ramifications of the grand chain of mountains to the south; as well as the Kabyles, the indomitable masters of the crests of Mount Atlas, and, in fine, the inhabitants of the cities and villages in the northern part of the Regency, when they wish to make the Mecca pilgrimage, come down to the principal ports of the coast, from whence they freight vessels for Alexandria.

Algiers has thus been accustomed to see, every year, several ships depart with pilgrims for the east; and when any distinguished person was of the company, the Dey gave them his own vessels to conduct them.

I argue, that it would be the best policy of the French to remove every obstacle in the way of pilgrimages from hence to Mecca. They ought to equip ships for

conveying the pilgrims to Egypt at stated periods. The expense of their conveyance, M. Genty de Bussy thinks, might be defrayed out of the funds of the Mecca and Medina Institution. I have already quoted the evidence of that writer against himself, with regard to those funds having been ever appropriated to the assistance of pilgrims going to the holy shrine from Algiers; but it is of little importance from what source the French might derive the money advanced to pilgrims—for, supposing them to be helped only as far as Egypt, the cost would be trifling; and in order to defray the rest of their journey, as well as to procure some articles of merchandise to dispose of in the east, the devout Moslems would be obliged to bring the products of their pastoral industry to the markets of Algiers, and thus to supply the French abundantly with provisions, as well as to purchase their goods imported from Europe.

It would be supreme policy in the French to foster this intercourse between Algiers and Arabia; and to concert means not only for giving the pilgrims a comfortable departure, but an equally comfortable return. Formerly, the pilgrims had covered places for stowing away their merchandise at Algiers, as well as fountains of running water for refreshing their beasts. The suburb of Bab-azoun once contained many of these caravenseries, but since the conquest they have disappeared, and been replaced by military barracks and hospitals. It was important, no doubt, that the soldiers should be lodged; but it is equally so that they should be fed, and the best way to feed them, is to attract the Arabs to the French markets.

The French government has been grossly inattentive to this subject. One would not wish them, to be sure, to imitate in all respects our policy with regard to the super-

stitions of India, in dealing with those of Algiers. It was carrying our complaisance too far to permit the burning of Indian widows. But still it is advisable as general policy to respect the native faith—and to restrain none of its innocuous practices. The only thing I ever heard said in favour of the French among the Moors was, that they thanked them for not allowing proselytizing fanatical preachers of Christianity to come amongst them. If such missionaries were allowed to settle here, their first converts would be the lowest scum of the people, who would embrace Christianity for the sake of getting drunk.

One certain blessing which we have a right to look for from the settlement of the French in Africa, is the importation of medical and surgical art. It is true that the Mahometan doctrine of fatalism is opposed to the healing science, but we have a proof that that opposition is not invincible, in the

fact of Bagdad having been at one time the first medical school in the world; and, in truth, there is no superstition that can entirely eradicate man's instinctive desire to have his death postponed, and his sickness mitigated. It is but fair to confess that the natives in the interior of the Regency have given no sort of encouragement for European doctors to settle amongst them; on the contrary, several who had opened shops at Mascara and elsewhere, after exhibiting rainbows of coloured bottles in their windows, and pounding innumerable stuffs for the Lybian bowels, have been obliged to return for want of patients.

It is true, moreover, that the simple habits of the barbarians make them more independent of doctors than the wine-drinking Europeans are generally apt to be; for, though Apollo may be the God of physicians, it is Bacchus perhaps who mainly provides them with customers. Neverthe-

less, the natives have several disorders to which they are peculiarly subject, and which no temperance can avoid, or indeed which abstemiousness itself tends to aggravate. Thus, in the fevers arising from marshy miasmata, wine has been often found an efficacious medicine.

I ought further to remark, that almost all the Kabyles and Arabs who have come in contact with the French at Algiers have shown no reluctance to being relieved in a French hospital. They overcome their scruples of fatalism by arguing thus:—"It was fated that I should be sick;—it was fated that I should be carried to the French hospital;—it was fated that the French doctor should feel my pulse, and make me show my tongue;—it was fated that his apprentice should bring me drugs that were to pass through my body, and restore me;—all this was the will of God, or else it could not have happened."

In speaking of disorders at Algiers, I ought rather to call them disorders incidental to the country, than peculiar to it, or inseparably connected with the climate. The climate of the Regency is noxious only in particular parts. I believe Algiers itself to be as healthful, as the most of the towns in Europe. The sultriness of summer throughout the whole Regency is mitigated by north winds that come across the Mediterranean, as well as by the south-westers, which, traversing the table-lands on the double chain of mount Atlas, refresh the atmosphere with the breath of the Atlantic Ocean.

It is true that in this country, as everywhere else where there are marshes, there are fevers. The Pontine marshes as well as those around Mantua, and on the plains of Sardinia,—nay, the coasts of Holland and Essex—have but too much febrile celebrity; and in like manner the evaporation

from numerous swampy tracts on the Metidja plain along the river Arratch, in face of the southern and eastern line of the French cantonments, have been exceedingly fatal to their soldiery. The natives themselves who are enlisted as Zouaves in the French service suffer also from this marsh fever; but it is remarkable in how small a degree comparatively with the French. Nine out of ten Frenchmen are seized with it, but only one out of four of the natives: the African Zouaves are also more speedily cured of it than Europeans, and are less subject to renewed attacks.

But there is nothing incurable in the swampiness of the Metidja. That plain, by a little industry, might be brought once more to deserve the name which it once derived from a young and beautiful princess. By digging channels for its moisture, and by embanking its principal river, it would soon be converted from the head of Medusa,

to the breath and bloom of Hebe. The same may be said as to the perfect practicability of making Bona itself more healthful. Human industry is God's vicegerent, in *sanitizing*, if I may dare to coin a word, the earth we tread, and the air we breathe. The French intend to drain all the accessible marshes of the Regency—I hope they will neither trifle with this design, nor abandon it; for humanity at large is interested in their civilizing this part of Africa. Let them remember that there is no glory in merely intending well, for hell itself they say is paved with good intentions.

The Arabs themselves, as I have said, are beginning to open their eyes to the blessings of the healing art. I have before me a list—name and surname, of all the males and females who have received medical treatment from the surgeon-major of the Zouaves in the months of March, April, and May of 1834. The number of patients

was two hundred and seventy-four, of whom two hundred and thirty-three were cured, thirty-two continued in the hospital till a later period of the year, and only nine were found incurable. This gives one heart and hope as to future civilization.

I subjoin a list of the relative number of diseases, as it forms an interesting document in the natural history of the native population. Of Abscess by Congestion, there were 2 cases; of Mental Alienation, 1; Amaurosis, 1; Aphthæ, 2; Ascitis Abdominalis, 3; Bronchitis, 4; Cancerous affection, 3; Carious Bones, 5; Pulmonary Catarrhs, 2; Cataract, 1; Cephalitis, 2; Impeded Circulation in the Limbs, 1; Enteritis, 6; Epilepsy, 1; Cutaneous Eruption, 1; Exostosis, 2; Fevers, 46; Intermittent ones, 42; Quotidian ditto, 2; Putrid ditto, 1; Destructive ditto, 1; Submaxillary Fistula, 1; Boils, 1; Fluxion, 1; the Itch, 2; Gastritis, 6; Gastro-Cepha-

litis, 1; Gastro-Enteritis, 4; Gastro-Pneumonitis, 4; Inflammation of the Liver, 1; Neurosis, 1; Inflammation of the Matrix, 6; Ophthalmia, 40; Inflammation of the Ear, 4; Pneumonia, 3; Obstruction of the Spleen, 1; Rheumatic Affections, 15; Sciatica, 1; Scorbutic Affections, 3; Schirrus, 1; Syphilitic Affections, 7; Scald Head, 24; Tumours, 2; Ulcers, 11; Uteritis, 1. The surplus of cases consisted of Wounds, Contusions, Fractures, and Sores, the result of accidents.

During the months of April and May, 1834, thirty-one Arabs of both sexes, of ages varying from eighteen months to twenty years, have been vaccinated.

Independently of those patients who have been attended to by the surgeon-major of the Zouaves, and independently also of their military hospital, the French have established in Algiers a civil hospital as well as a dispensary. To the civil hospi-

tal are admitted French colonists, Jews, and Moslems, without distinction. The number of patients, since the opening of the institution, in August, 1832, down to the first of January, 1834, is stated by M. Genty de Bussy at eight hundred and forty-nine. The number of deaths, I am sorry to find, has been very considerable; but the care that is taken of the patients,—who cost the government on an average little less than two shillings a head per day,—and the good report which the Kabyles and Arabs who have been healed in this asylum will necessarily spread throughout the Regency, must be deservedly beneficial to the French.

Whilst the French were in possession of Coleah, they humanely projected an hospital for the Arabs; and what is equally agreeable to relate, the Maraboots, or saints of the country, showed a strong interest in the project. This is the true way to con-

quer Africa. Of all apologues, that of the sun and the wind contending which should first make the traveller open his cloak, best illustrates the means of civilization; and how beautiful is the spectacle of charity uniting those whom religion separates!

At Oran and at Bona civil hospitals are already in a state of formation.

It is allowable also to hope that France will diffuse moral as well as medical knowledge over Algiers. I told you, what I still believe, that the Algerine Moors are a better-educated people than we generally suppose them to be in Europe; that is, that all their children learn to read and write, and many of them to cast up accounts; nay, I have met with Arabs and Kabyles who could write and calculate by figures. But it is not contradicting this fact to add to it that a European child acquires infinitely more by learning to read, than a little Mussulman can do under the

present native mode of education. The European is taught language by grammar and principles; the African here is taught only the words of the Koran—his master being too ignorant himself to explain even the difference between a noun and a verb.

The Algerine pedagogues are not cruel, and they abstain from one odious mode of flagellation which still disgraces some of our schools; but still the rod is the schoolmaster's sceptre in Algiers, though he flourishes it over the shoulders of his pupils, instead of more exceptionable parts. I have been witness to an hour's tuition in an Algerine school. On my entrance, I found the schoolmaster and his scholars all prostrated in prayer upon the ground. I retired for some minutes until they had finished their devotions: on re-entering, I found the boys all squatted, and bowing

see-saw over their slates, some of them writing Arabic characters, and all of them mumbling words which of course, were those of verses of the Koran. For a long time all went on smoothly; but at length I recognized the truth of Juvenal's remark, that the teacher has an arduous task in watching *tot manus puerorum*. The oriental gravity of the pupils began to relax, even to visible cachinnation and audible tittering. It was then that *the schoolmaster went abroad*, and by some well-timed hits he restored them to a state of serious and see-saw mumbling over the Koran.

I repeat to you my belief, that there was no such thing as the Lancasterian system of tuition discovered in Algiers by the French, but schools of mutual instruction have been established, early after the conquest, at Algiers, Oran, and Bona. Those

schools are open to the native children, both Jewish and Mussulman.

The following is no unpleasant statistic table of public tuition in the Regency, dated the 1st of July, 1834:—

At Algiers, taking in the village of Delhy-Ibrahim, and at Oran and Bona, there are educated in gratuitous schools, on the mutual-instruction system, three hundred and seventeen pupils, of whom a third are natives; forty-eight of these are students of the Arabic language. Of private institutions of education (of course not gratuitous), there are two for boys, who fill them to the amount of seventy-two; and four for girls, three at Algiers and one at Oran, the pupils of which amount to one hundred and sixty-nine.

It is worth remarking, that the Moors show themselves much more backward than the Jews in availing themselves of the

means of European instruction that have been thus opened up. This is a pity, no doubt, for the Moors; but it bespeaks also our praise for the Jews, and they will reap the advantage.

LETTER XXII.

Embark at Algiers for Oran—Adventures of Peter Dumont, who sojourned as a slave in Africa for thirty-four years—His relation considered as authentic—Remarkable incident which happened to him—Liberated by Lord Exmouth—His entire ignorance of all that had happened in Europe since 1784—A Tempest—The Captain of the Steamer—The imminent danger—Reflections, in the immediate prospect of death—Anchor safely off Arzew—Description of the Village—Anecdote of a poor Arab—The Harbour a retreat for Shipping in Autumn and Winter—Salt Springs and Pits—Ignorance of the Natives in preparing the article—The dwarf Palm tree—The white Asphodel and wild Asparagus—Purple Primroses—Beds of Nettles—Nettle-cloth—Animal Curiosities—The Mountain Cats—Arrival at Mers-el-Kebir—Proceed to Oran.

Oran, March 5th, 1835.

On Saturday last, I embarked for this place on board the steamer at Algiers. The worthy St. Johns made me promise to

come back to them instead of returning to England, as I had once thought of, by way of Spain. I had every symptom of a pleasant voyage that the sea and sky could promise. Mr. Brown, the American consul, came out to shake hands with me on board the steamer, and so did the frank-hearted General Bro,—a true and truth-speaking soldier, whom I am proud to call my friend: at parting, he presented me with some drawings of Algerine scenery, which his son had kindly sent me from his portfolio.

The weather was propitious to us for several hours, and I had a great many fellow-passengers to beguile the time with in conversation. At intervals, I amused myself with reading, and got particularly interested in an account of the Adventures of Peter Dumont, a Frenchman, who sojourned as a slave in Africa for thirty-four years. Mr. Brown, who considered the

relation as authentic, had transcribed it from Rile's Register of Baltimore, where it appeared in August, 1818.

Poor Dumont left his native city, Paris, at the age of fourteen, in the year 1782, and went to America, but returning to Europe, found himself, after successive adventures, on board the Lièvre, a French brig of fourteen guns, which sailed to join a squadron that was blocking Port Mahon; but the unfortunate brig was shipwrecked on the very coast which we were now passing, between Algiers and Oran. Of her crew, amounting to a hundred and forty men, one half were drowned, and the other half were massacred by the Arabs on the coast, with the exception of eighteen, of whom Dumont was one.

The natives took them on foot a journey of several days into the interior, as far as the residence of their Sheik, where they were chained two and two; and, "during

twenty-eight years," says the adventurer in his narrative, " I was compelled to support night and day, with my miserable fellow chain-mate, the weight of fetters that made us inseparable. Every morning at four o'clock," he continues, " we were taken out to work, sometimes at the mines, sometimes at cutting down trees or ploughing the ground. We were bound to work until twilight, and we had not any other rest, than to smoke during a quarter of an hour some tobacco we could pick up in the fields by the way. In the morning when we were getting out of our prison, which was totally dark, and where we had only a little straw to sleep on, we received each of us two rolls—which were black, tough, and very often mouldy—and some rotten olives. This was our only meal every day. We had but once in the whole year—the day of the circumcision of the children of the tribe—a small piece of meat and a little

broth. If any one of us, exhausted with fatigue and hunger, discontinued working a few minutes, the chief guardian thrashed him unmercifully: in short, so miserable was our fate, that many of the sufferers killed themselves. I remained twenty-eight years in this dreadful situation. My life was constantly uniform. I am going to give the recital of the only incident which happened to me during the whole of that time.

"A maraboot (so they call a Turkish monk) who was travelling through the country where we lived, gave us in alms about thirty sequins, about two hundred francs. Our chief guardian wanted to get his part of it. I was the only one who refused giving him anything; filled with indignation on account of my refusal, he treated me in the most cruel manner. Every day when I was getting out of the prison, he overwhelmed me with injuries and blows. Tired

of my life, I resolved to put an end to it by taking vengeance on my persecutor, whom I determined to kill the first blow he should give me. The next day when I was going to work, he came and struck me —I seized a large stone, I threw it against his face, and beat the right eye out of his head. I was instantly surrounded by Arabians, who tied me to a mule, and, after having been thrashed in a dreadful way, I was brought before the Sheik. I had happily learned to speak Arabic, and I was able to explain to the Sheik the motives of my conduct. I made him perceive the cruel proceedings of the guardian towards me. The Sheik, penetrated with the justice of my remonstrance, condemned him to be hanged. Then, advancing himself to me, he said, ' Which hand of yours struck your enemy? He has infringed on the laws of the Koran, and must suffer his punishment, but you also must suffer

yours.' As I foresaw the chastisement I was reserved for, I answered that I had thrown the stone with my left hand, in order to save the right. He ordered my left hand to be tied to a plank and struck till the skin and flesh were taken off, which was executed immediately in the most cruel manner. After I had suffered this dreadful torture without being allowed to dress my wound, I was compelled that very day to move round a mill-stone, which I was condemned to do for a whole year.

"The Sheik of the Conbaly tribe was always at war with the other tribes, and when he was forced to march his troops against them he took along with him a hundred slaves to pitch the tents, to load and to unload the camels, and generally for the most tiresome and painful duty.

"I remained twenty-eight years among these barbarians, until the Bey of Titery, who was tributary to the Dey of Algiers,

after some negotiations entered into with the Sheik, had us conveyed into the country under his jurisdiction: we were then five hundred in number, and walked eight days to get to Titery, where we remained about five months.

The Bey sold us to the Regency of Algiers for a sum of money which was deducted from what he was bound to pay for his annual tribute. After the bargain was concluded, we set out and arrived after a journey of four nights at Algiers, where I remained a slave about six years. I was liberated by the glorious expedition under Lord Exmouth, to whom I owe my restoration to my country after a period of thirty-four years."

Mr. Brown, the American consul, who, I think, had seen this man, told me a circumstance which is not mentioned in his narrative, but which carries credibility in its face; namely, that when he returned to

Christendom, the history of all its revolutions since 1784 was a matter of entire novelty to him. In all his years of slavery, he had never heard of the French revolution nor of Napoleon. If the story of the Cretan philosopher, Epimenedes, taking a nap for fifty years in a cave had been true, it would have been a prototype of Dumont's case, only that the philosophical sleeper had a happier time of absenteeism from the world than the Christian slave.

After reading this narrative, I walked the quarter-deck during dusk, and stood near enough to the main-deck to hear a group of soldiers talking about the cruelties committed by the Arabs on some unhappy Frenchmen, who had lately fallen into their hands. The coincidence between the topic on which I had been reading, and that upon which they were speaking, was more pat than pleasant, and I silently agreed in opinion with one of the speakers

in the French group, that drowning at sea would be preferable to being stranded on these barbarous shores. In the meantime, the wind set in strongly from the west, and I retired to my berth almost as ill from the swelling of the sea, as I had been in crossing from Marseilles. The chairs made voyages across the cabin, changing sides like so many vacillating politicians—only those wooden-headed politicians differed from those of the human breed in this respect, that they always went over to the lower or losing side.

On Sunday evening, the gale increased to a perfect tempest, and, by the moanings of some female sea-sick passengers, which I could hear in the neighbouring berths, being changed into supplications to Heaven, it was evident that though there might be little danger there was much fear. I felt no particular apprehension till at midnight, when the captain of the steamer

came down to the cabin. He was a tall, thin man, of a ghastly white complexion. How it happened I know not, but so it did happen, that though I had been on board a good many hours, I remarked not till now the extreme paleness of his face, which is not wonderful, as he had not long ago the misfortune to be run through the stomach in a duel, and since that time has been able to digest no other aliment than milk and gum, and a little vermicelli. Ignorant both of his customary complexion and of the cause of it, I mistook his spectral paleness, which was heightened by lamp-light, for a symptom of dismay; and when, in answer to my question, "Is there any danger?" he answered "Yes," I concluded that it could be no small matter that could blanch the cheek of an experienced officer.

"But what sort of danger?" I said, "What are the symptoms?"

"Why, only that the wind has carried away our two half-sails."

"And have you any to replace them?"

"None at all."

"Goodness!" I exclaimed, "English seamen would not have been unprovided for such an accident."

This speech of mine, most uncalled for and imprudent, I dare say, nettled him.

"What then do you mean to do?" I asked. "You will not run us on shore among the Arabs?"

"No, we will be drowned first. What I shall do will depend on circumstances. If the storm continues, I must either return to Algiers or make for Spain."

"And how much coal have you on board?"

"Only as much as will serve for twenty-four hours."

"Why was there not more coal?"

"Monsieur Anglais, the coal comes from England, and it is scarce at Algiers. But, as I hear you are a poet, let me tell you, I fear that this will be a tragic episode in your history."

He then left me to my meditations.

Another officer soon after came down for a moment to the cabin. I troubled him only with two questions.

"Are we on a lee shore?"

"No, the wind is nearly ahead of us."

"Are we near the coast?"

"No, considerably out from it."

Ah! then, methought, we are at least clear of the horrible natives. Still, I had heard from the bloodless lips of the captain, what forced me to conjecture that we might founder at sea, and I summoned my soul's forlorn fortitude to face the catastrophe. True, it will be hideous to be suffocated in the howling waters, and I felt in fancy the first gushing of them into my ears and

nostrils. But I recollected that by far the greater number of persons recovered from drowning have described it as not an agonizing death; and then, though some will miss me, what is the loss of life, thick sown as it is with vexations and pain, and long hours of ennui. Though in a reverie only, and not a dream, my mind's eye saw Dumont standing before me with his beaten and bleeding hand upon the plank. In short, all the cruelties of man to man, and all the horrors of life, rose up as officious support ers to my courage against the prospect of death. But on brief reflection I said to myself, "This is not a state of mind in which a man should either live or die." So I struggled for better thoughts, and in some degree obtained them.

And did I really rally and marshal my broken thoughts? you will ask me, under the immediate prospect of death. No, I pretend not to having stood that awful pro-

bation; I had the fear, but not the certain prospect, of death before my eyes. I had still a latent hope that we should be saved, and a suspicion that the captain had exaggerated matters. At one time, no doubt, I thought that all was over with us; the ship, struck by a wave, heeled and shook as if she were going to pieces, and a shriek arose from one or more of the passengers. But the shock subsided, and, from finding that the ship had not gone down, my hopes began to mount up most saucily.

Before daylight, the sea-swell was sensibly abated. Our captain came down once more to the cabin, and forgetting all offence, if he had been offended, told me he considered the crisis of our danger passed. I disposed myself to sleep, and, when I awoke, found that we were anchored off Arzew.

Arzew is a tolerably safe haven, thirty-six miles to the east of Oran. I was delighted to go ashore, though the village is

small and miserable. Here the French have a military station, and a little fortress with two hundred men. Ten new houses have been built by the settlers, two of whom have set up as innkeepers, and supply the military with more wine and brandy than does them good.

As I was passing one of these cabarets, I observed the French soldiers hustling and insulting a wretched, ragged Arab, and even setting a dog upon him. The poor Numidian had been begging from them a morsel of food, and they backed him out of the door by offering him wine. I reprimanded the French for their inhumanity, and ordered the landlord to bring the starving creature some bread and meat, which he devoured with avidity. After his meal, I offered him a draught of wine: his manner showed that he knew I was not meaning to insult him, but bowing, to thank me, he pointed with his finger up to heaven, as

much as to say, it is forbidden. We stopped here till the following day (Tuesday) when I took a stroll of five hours' length in the neighbourhood of the village, in company with a French officer of the station, who is an expert botanist.

Arzew is a roomy haven, that is still considerably frequented by European shipping, as a retreat in winter and autumn. The place was called Arsenaria by the Romans. It is described by Shaw as, even in his time, a small city; but fifty years later, Leweson found upon it only a few huts and tents, with a corn magazine belonging to the Bey of Mascara. The surrounding country is waste and marshy, and, according to Leweson, inhabited only by lions, hyænas, and jackals. I saw no samples of species of this rural population, but the Frenchman told me that their voices are sometimes heard.

Some miles south of Arzew, there are exu-

berant salt springs and pits, which are supposed to contain as much salt as would supply all Barbary; but, in Leweson's time this source of wealth was so much neglected by the natives, and such was their ignorance of preparing the article from briny springs, or of cleansing it in its fossil state, that the natives used very little salt, and that little was imported from Europe; it was not even used in preserving their cheese and butter, and salted meat or fish was unknown. I asked my botanical companion whether the natives continue as ignorant of the art of making and purifying salt as Leweson described them. He could not be positive on the subject, but said, he believed that they now manufacture the article, though only to a small extent.

A little to the east of Arzew, the river Mukdah discharges itself into the sea. It is probably the ancient Castennus. It

receives several tributary streams, one of which is the Oued-el-Hamam, or River of Baths,—so called from a warm spring in the neighbourhood. There are close to Arzew the vestiges of a small village, and farther off those of a considerable town, both of them palpably Roman ruins.

Here there is no such beauty of landscape as at Bougia or even Bona, but still the scene is not destitute of interest. The plains and ravines are by no means so marshy as I expected to find them, but abound in alluvial earth, which irregular streams bring down from the mountains. This gives birth to numberless dwarf palm trees, which, though a humble shrub, is not valueless to the Arabs. They find its root a nourishing vegetable, and they weave its leaves into ropes and baskets. Next, in abundance, to the dwarf palm tree, is a peculiar species of lentisk. I culled also

many heads of the white asphodel and of the wild asparagus. The latter eats pleasantly when boiled, and I even prefer it to the garden asparagus, though it is slightly bitter, lavender and wormwood grow in plenty, and every here and there I met with patches of rich purple primroses, and of a species of vetch, which has a blossom as rich in colour as the wall-flower. Last of all, my eye luxuriated in looking on large and beautiful beds of nettles. "Oh, wretched taste!" your English prejudice perhaps will exclaim; "is not the nettle a weed if possible more vile than even your Scottish thistle?" But be not *nettled*, my friend, at my praise of this useful weed. In Scotland, I have eaten nettles, I have slept in nettle sheets, and I have dined off a nettle table-cloth. The young and tender nettle is an excellent pot-herb, and the stalks of the old nettle are as good as flax for mak-

ing cloth. I have heard my mother say that she thought nettle-cloth more durable than any other species of linen.

The only animal curiosities I saw at Arzew were a noble eagle, who looked contemptuously on his spectators, though he was chained by the foot; and a couple of caged mountain-cats. If there was poetry in the eagle's mien, there was a still more indescribable beauty in the emerald eyes of the feline captives, and in the black spots upon their rich and fawn-coloured fur. They were each about twice the size of a house grimalkin. Whilst they were rolling on their backs in rage, and opening their red mouths to snap at any reed or stick that was thrust at them, I so admired them, that I was sorry I durst not insert my hand to caress them; I have no doubt they would have caressed my hand in return, if I had.

This morning at ten, our steamer arrived

at Mers-el-Kebir, two leagues from Oran, where there is a large fortress built of old by the Spaniards, and now surmounted by the tri-colour, but at which there is no safe anchorage for shipping. I took a boat immediately, and conveyed myself with my baggage to Oran: here I could find only a miserable lodging, but it is the best in the place. I like much the novelty and picturesqueness of the town; and, as I shall meet with the British vice-consul, Mr. Dalzell, son of my old friend the Greek Professor of Edinburgh, as well as General Trezel, who is commandant of the place, I look forward with pleasure to a short sojourn.



VIEW OF ORAN.

LETTER XXIII.

Description of Oran—Beauty of the climate—The terraced or sloping Gardens—The Castle of Santa Cruz—The Spanish Fortifications—Oran relinquished by the Spaniards in 1791—Tremendous Earthquake—Mr. Dalzell, British Vice-Consul—The New Casbah—Commandant General Trezel—The Fort of Santa Cruz—A Salt Lake—Spanish population of Oran—Magnificent ruins—Native wild flowers—Hyænas and Snakes—The Miotis Annua—Meat and provisions cheaper than at Algiers—The Landlady and her voracious guests—The Spanish Priest—Lion's flesh and roasted Jackal—French Officers well-informed men—Comparison of French and English manners—Accompany General Trezel and his brigade in an excursion to the interior—The white Gazelle—An Eagle—The reminiscences it elicits amongst the Soldiers—The Arab herd-boy—Prevailing inebriety of the French Soldiers—Military flogging—A group for a Sculptor—A Lion—Anecdote of two French Soldiers—Story of a Highland laird—The Lion shot—The young Jackal.

Oran, March 15th, 1835.

THIS city, once large and populous, though now inconsiderable and inhabited but by a

few thousand souls, stands in 35° 50′ of north latitude, and in the third degree of longitude to the west of Paris. It is built partly on the sea-shore, at the mouth of a spacious ravine, and partly on two table-lands lying on either side of the ravine. The roadstead is picturesque to look at, but shallow, exposed to the winds, and affording no anchorage to ships of considerable burthen. The appearance of Oran is pleasant and imposing: the streets are wider and straighter than those of Algiers, and the whole town is a paradise, compared to the capital of the Regency. The city has six gates. It is at present surrounded with what the French call a *chemise garnie* and several *redans*—the chemise is flanked from distance to distance by magnificent forts, the work of the Spaniards.

The climate at the time I am writing, is delicious; and, I understand, though not beneficial for persons with pulmonary com-

plaints, is upon the whole very healthful—the mortality is even less than at the town of Algiers, which cannot be called unwholesome. Here the proportion of the sick among the French is often no more than one to a hundred—it very seldom exceeds five per cent., and that only in the hot months, when the soldiers indulge themselves in fruit and brandy.

The steep ravine which I have mentioned divides the upper town into two portions, which are connected by a pretty stone bridge of Spanish construction. The stream is perennial, and strong enough to drive several mills. A handsomer valley than this, you can hardly imagine to be enclosed between two parts of a town. On each side of the stream, there are terraced or sloping gardens, rich with fruits and flowers, and resounding with song-birds; and, whilst those songs, mixed with the tune of the stream, come to the ear, the eye volup-

tuates, if I may coin a word, on peach, and almond, and orange blossoms.

I have seldom felt more gay sensations than when ascending from the marine to the upper part of Oran. The mixed reminiscences of Spanish and Moorish history which the scene awakens—the mighty castle of Santa Cruz, on the summit of Mount Rammra, one thousand six hundred feet above the level of the sea, on the nearest top of the range of hills that sweep for three leagues to Mers-el-Kebir, at which point there are equally splendid Spanish fortifications, together with the minarets of several mosques, and the sight of the tricolor on tower and citadel, oblige you to think of the past, the present, and the future, and make you feel that man is a being, looking behind and before him.

The Spaniards gave back Oran to the Moors in 1791, after they had held it more than a hundred years, and had spent many

millions sterling of money in making it impregnable. But an earthquake one fatal night buried thousands of the inhabitants under the ruins of their houses, and, though the forts were not irreparably shaken, the Spaniards got tired of the place, and consigned Oran and its province by treaty to the Dey of Algiers.

After calling on the British vice-consul, Mr. Dalzell, I ascended to what is called the New Casbah (in contradistinction to an older one that is now half in ruins), and paid my respects to the Commandant, General Trezel. This new Casbah has handsome ramparts, batteries commanding the sea and the town, a deep ditch with a counterscarp, and the remains of a covered way. Here are barracks for five hundred infantry and two hundred cavalry. In all the courts, there are fountains and jets-d'eau. The gate of entrance is entirely of hewn stone, and is a superb piece of archi-

tecture. The general and his amiable lady received me very kindly, and gave me a general invitation to their evening parties.

The fort of Santa Cruz, to which I have alluded, still remains strong enough to repel any aggression on the town in that direction, and is capable of being repaired so as to hold a powerful garrison. But, though it was occupied by the French when the Arabs last attacked Oran, it is deserted at present. I made my way up to it one fine day, but its aspect of desolation, its gloomy stairs and deserted chambers, made me thankful that I had some gay Frenchmen with me, otherwise I should have been afraid of meeting ghosts. From this castle of Santa Cruz, the buildings of the town below appear as small as houses of cards. From thence, the eye is carried over a wide and wild country to the extremity of a salt lake, twenty miles long, where boat is never launched. The cause of this desolation is

its shallowness; the lake itself, however, is an advantage to the country. Its shores get dry in summer, and yield salt so abundantly, that the article is sold here for seven sous the hundred weight. This confirms what the Frenchman at Arzew told me as to salt being at present prepared by the natives.

From the Castle of Santa Cruz, subterraneous paths have been discovered, leading from the castle to parts of the plain three miles below. In the dismal walls of the forsaken fortress, the jackals of the neighbourhood hold their evening concerts, and take up their lodgings for the night. Nor can they be said to leave the place quite solitary; but, on the contrary, they people it with millions more company than is desirable: to be plain and short, we came back to Oran covered with fleas. It was not till I had bathed and shifted every

garment I had worn, that I got rid of those back-biters and bosom foes.

There are two smaller forts to the west of the town, on the road to Mers-el-Kebir, which are in very good preservation, and occupied by the French. On the parapet of one of them there is a spike of iron, fixed upright in the wall, on which poor wretches in the Moorish times used to be empaled.

On the south-eastern side of the city there are the remains of fortifications and square towers, which at one time made Oran impregnable in that direction. It is not so at present; for little more than a year ago the Arabs had nearly penetrated into the town through this quarter. All these forts are of Spanish erection, and built of stones, supplied by a vast quarry in the neighbourhood, in which petrifactions of fishes have been often found.

The Spanish population of Oran inha-

bited a wide table-land, separated from the Moorish part of the town by the ravine and rivulet already mentioned. I have seldom seen anything more imposing to the imagination than the ruins of churches and palaces, and the traces of squares, and streets, and houses, overgrown with nettles, and all manner of weeds, which this desolate plain presents.

Though there is no pathway through this scene of rubbish and foundations, it is my favourite haunt, not only because it gives my mind a dreamy picture of the once proud city, on whose cornices the hyæna now couches and the adder coils, but because it is rich in the native wild flowers of which I am now making a collection. "Soho!" methinks you exclaim, "you are become a botanist!" No, my friend, a real botanist I despair of ever becoming, for though in my boyhood I went through a course of the science, I find the re-attain-

ment of it beyond my patience. But I delight in the flowers of the field: they have all some charm or other in my eyes, —with their shapes and hues they speak a language of their own to my imagination, and, when I have admired their beauty, I like to consult the dictionary about their uses and qualities.

"But how do you dispose of the hyænas and snakes," you will say, "that you meet with in this desolate place?" Why, those poor things never trouble a man unless he attacks them. I keep as much as possible on clear ground, and with a hook on the end of my stick I fish for plants. Once only my researches went too deep. I saw in a bed of nettles a gigantic nettle-stalk, that, without exaggeration, was as thick as the stick of an umbrella: into the grove I plunged, but it was beyond my reach, and I returned sucking my burnt fingers.

This neighbourhood is not so variously

rich in wild plants as the fields about Algiers; but my residence at the latter place was almost entirely during the winter months; whereas the spring is commencing here, and there is a blossom on every clod. There are acres of asphodel, with bluish-white flowers, that grow sometimes to the height of six feet. The Allium sativum, or wild garlic, has a pretty flower of the same colour; but the wild tulip, which Jussieu classes in the family of the *Liliacées*, is the pride of the fields, and often grows in large clusters; nor is it a mere gaud, like our garden tulips, but unites a fragrance, like that of the lily, to its rich and glossy hue. The Bouglossa officinalis, with its dark blue flowers, as well as the Linus ruber, with its red ones, and the hedge Convolvulus, which is larger and richer than in Europe, prank the ground like a gay carpet; whilst the Ferrula communis, growing to an enormous height, shines vividly with

"*sight-refreshing green.*" The serpolet, a kind of wild thyme, is here both frequent and fragrant; and so is the Alissum montanum.

Of mallows, there are several sorts: of these, the Malva arborescens is the most medicinal, and the Rotundifloria, to my taste, the most picturesque. The Presida alba, with a tallish stem and a white flower, and no less the Chrysanthemum majus, like a giant chamomile, make a pleasant figure on the road-side. These are but a few of my floral sweethearts: I will not tire you with naming any more of them—saving one only, the darling little Miotis annua. No flaunting beauty, it is unobtrusive, like the violet; but when examined, its blossom is like a spark of the sapphire firmament set in a capsule of emerald.

I get one good from these rambles after field-flowers—namely, an excellent appetite; and the meat here is infinitely better

than that of Algiers, both at private tables and at the *table-d'hôte*, which is resorted to by the civil and military bachelors who have no household *cuisine* of their own. There, for sixty-five francs a month, I make two meals a-day—a *déjeûner à la fourchette* and dinner; I have more dishes presented to me than I can partake of, and small wine *ad libitum*.

Although meat, fish, and fowls are twice as cheap here as at Algiers, I suspect our entertainers can make but little profit by their boarders;—indeed the landlady told me so the other day. When remaining last of the company I complimented her on her *cuisine*, and the gastronomic powers of her guests, I found that I had touched the tenderest chord of her heart. "Alas, Sir," said she, with a voice of grief, "if they would all eat as you do, like a man of conscience, off a dish or two, we could live by our trade; but the ravens—the ogres!—

oh! their maws will be the ruin of us!"——and she wiped her tears with her apron. "I always tell my husband that it is of no use to take pains with our cookery; for the nicer we cook the more unmercifully they devour." And I believed her; for I had remarked a bluff Major bag for his own share, an *omelet*—the flesh of a fowl, with ham to match—besides reducing the height of a pyramid of cutlets by half a foot. In short, she convinced me that they were frying away the peace of their own souls in every sole that they put into the pan; and that in potting for others, they were themselves going to pot.

Apropos to omelets: I dined off a very nice and savoury one, made of an ostrich's egg, the day after I came to Oran. It was at the table of General Trezel. The men, excepting a Spanish priest and myself, were all military. Mio Padre, the priest, is a friend of Mina, and a bold constitu-

tionalist. He says that it is all nonsense to talk of the Catholic religion being adverse to liberty, and favourable to the divine right of kings: for it has dethroned more kings and emperors than ever Protestantism did, and that Catholicism is naturally allied with republicanism. I was so busy with my ostrich omelet, and he reminded me so much of Daniel O'Connell, that I could not even grunt a contradiction.

There were some very pretty women of the party. One of them told me that she had once ate a bit of lion's flesh, and that it tasted like very good veal; she had also once half-dined, she said, off a roasted jackal, and taken a large slice, which was very like venison, and more savoury than mutton. Was this a vulgar, eccentric woman? No, I assure you; quite the reverse in all other points of conversation—

delicate and ladylike; I told her that her mouth was by far too interesting to masticate such food.

I have thus had, in the Commandant's house, an opportunity of knowing all the officers of the higher grade here, and their acquaintance is well worth forming. I have met with Englishmen, who, not so much from prejudice as sheer ignorance, set down French officers universally as nothing better than illiterate swordsmen. If you entertained that stupid opinion, the conversation of the superior officers in this Regency would disabuse you of it. Among an equal number of men, you will nowhere find a greater proportion of sensible individuals. They may be the *élite*, for aught that I know, of the French army; for the strongest minds would naturally be the first to court employment in the African enterprise; but still, the officers here can-

not be materially different from those at home, and they are anything but illiterate, if you come to the reading that gives men useful knowledge. They have not classical acquirements, and, in my opinion, are none the worse for the want of them.

I like to see classical literature among the infinitesimal part of mankind, who can reap and really enjoy it; but of all human hogs, save me from the college hedgehog who bristles with quotations from Horace. The French gentlemen whom I have met in the Algerine Regency have generally raised my respect for the national character. In various degrees, their spirits are active and ingenious: some of them, like my friend Lagondie (Trezel's aide-de-camp), addict themselves to Arabian literature and history; another is a botanist; some are chemists and zoologists; and drawing is a common accomplishment—

General Bro's son, for instance, is a promising artist *.

In my intercourse with the most polished and intelligent of them, I have found that, in order to win their good opinion, and to elicit free information from them, you must never lose sight of their national character. The revolution itself has not done away with either their politeness or their punctiliousness; and their politeness, whether the shadow or the substance of benevolence, must be reciprocated with an attention which an Englishman is apt to neglect. If you meet an Englishman in mounting the stairs of an hotel, and put your hand to your hat, he will conclude that you are either mad, or that you mean to beg charity of him; but if you meet a Frenchman, though an utter stranger, he will give and expect the same token of

* Young Bro has also distinguished himself in the last campaign.

courtesy. In like manner (speaking in general terms), a Frenchman, even on the sore subject of politics, will be courteous and continue to be so, if you return his courtesy; but he expects it, and will turn short upon you if he misses it. Not that I mean you should ever drop that *fierte Anglaise*, for which the French in their hearts respect us, but you should make it purely defensive, and show that it comes from the warmth of the heart, not the heat of the temper.

In this way, by a very little tact, you will get abundant and amusing instruction from the accomplished military men of France, who have seen much of the world, and can tell you much about it.

Nevertheless, as I have said, the very courtesy of the best Frenchmen requires a certain degree of management, and what I like about my favourite Lagondie is, that in talking with him I need no management

at all. He is half an Englishman—his father, a Bourbonist exile, having married in England the daughter of an English nobleman. He calls on me every day, and I always expect him with pleasure on the morrow. Young as he is, he has a strongly reflecting mind, a good deal of reading, and a remarkable memory; his sedate temper and his mixed birth have divested him of all national prejudices.

A few days ago, by General Trezel's invitation, I accompanied him and his staff at the head of his brigade, in an excursion into the interior. We met with no adventures worth relating, and, except at one spot, we saw none of the natives. For miles after you leave Oran, the chain of hills that run from the south to the sea, are bare and stony, and the plain itself is totally uncultivated, but it abounds in asphodel, so tall that I could pluck its tops as I rode; and there were here and there most beauti-

ful patches of the tulip and bouglossa. We caught a glimpse of a white gazelle, that speedily hid itself among the asphodels; happily it was against military etiquette to pursue it.

At times, the trumpets of the cavalry played martial airs, that were delightfully unmixed with that din of drums which generally overpowers French military music. The echoes of the wild landscape gave a strange effect to the notes of the war-horn. Not a tent, nor an Arab, nor a camel was to be seen; every living thing seemed to have fled from before the French, except a majestic eagle, that hovered over the troops, and you would have thought exulted in hearing the military band. What a glorious fellow he was! I see him yet in my mind's eye, towering up to the topmost heaven, then dropping plump down till his shadow was pictured on the sunny ground; at times, he would shoot before us,

turning his crested head and splendid eyes completely back over his shoulders; anon, he would wheel in elliptic circles, or turn vertically, as if in sport, on his yard-wide wings. Now, I said to myself, can Frenchmen under arms see an eagle hovering over their trumpets without certain reminiscences? and I was not mistaken; looking round, I saw more than ordinary expression in all their Gallic faces: it was grave, and not gay expression; but it was, to my imagination at least, strongly intelligible. I said to an officer at whose side I was riding, "Is it merely my fancy, or do the soldiers look at that bird with peculiar admiration?" "*Pauca verba*," he replied, "this is no place for making remarks, but you are perfectly right that the eagle is producing a sensation!" In spite of this caution, I kept behind, and observed to an elderly sergeant of cavalry, "That is a noble bird up there." "*Oui!*" he answered

emphatically, "*l'aigle vaut mieux que le coq.*"

At the end of three leagues, we came to a large cistern, from which we drew water for ourselves and our horses, and halted for half an hour to take a *déjeûner*, for which some French suttlers, who had got there before us, sold us ample materials. A poor Arab boy was tending a few miserable cows beside the cistern; Captain Lagondie asked him, in Arabic, what had become of the tribe who usually dwelt in the neighbourhood? The herd-boy told him that they had all gone off towards the desert, except the people of his father's tent. This was a lie, for it was known that they were only skulking out of the way of the French. "The more shame to you Frenchmen," I said to Lagondie.

On my return to Oran the same day, I was struck, though not for the first time,

with proofs of the excessive inebriety that prevails among the French common soldiers. It so far exceeds anything to be seen among our own men, that I could not help saying to a group of officers with whom I dined at the *table-d'hôte,* that, abominating as I do flogging with all my soul, I doubted if it would not be charity to the men themselves to restrain them from drunkenness by that means. "No, Sir," said an experienced officer, "it would never do to return to the system of the lash; all France would revolt at it, and no man would dare to propose it; and, as for drunkenness, if there was any danger threatening France, the soldiers of their own accord would correct that vice, and of themselves punish their comrades for it." I hope he is right, and I am disposed to believe his assertion, that he had himself always seen French soldiers become tem-

perate in a crisis of common danger. Be that as it may, there is certainly no terror of punishment for inebriety among the Gallic warriors of Africa. I have heard of one of them being brought to a court-martial for the crime of *being drunk without leave;* but, to judge by appearances, such leave is not difficult to be obtained.

On my way home the same evening, I passed two figures, who would have made as good a comic subject for the sculptor Thom, as that of Tam O'Shanter and Sutor Johnny. They were seated on a stone bench, not conversing, but soliloquizing. One of them, a short Horace-like gentleman, was snapping his fingers, and laughing with a short face that was an epigram of tipsy felicity: the other was a huge Herculean dragoon, with a sword at his side that would slice an ox, and *he* was in the melting mood—blubbering like a whipped child, and piteously muttering the

Lord knows what, whilst the tears rolled down on his ferocious whiskers.

Our neighbourhood is occasionally visited by a personage still more consequential than the eagle, namely, the king of the quadruped creation. I had not the honour of seeing his majesty whilst alive during his last royal progress, but enjoyed the safer gratification of hearing his voice at a distance. This was yesterday evening, whilst I was strolling alone about a quarter of a mile from the walls of Oran: there was no mistaking the lion's roar, though I had never heard it before but in a menagerie. At first, the sound conspired with the savage grandeur of the scene, and the prospect of the long innavigable lakes, to yield me a romantic pleasure. "Come," thought I, "this is pleasantly romantic, that I have heard the Lybian lion roar in his native freedom;" and as his voice, though I could not be sure from what quarter it came, be-

tokened him to be far off, I stood enjoying my thoughts for a minute as quietly as if I had been reading Longinus.

But rapt as I was in the sublime, it occurred to me that how distant soever his majesty might be, it would be better for me to get into town, than run the millionth part of a chance of being ushered by surprise into the royal presence: so I turned townwards. Presently I came up with two little French soldiers, who were resting on the road-side with their muskets beside them.

"Gentlemen," I said, "have you heard that lion's roar?"

"Oh yes," they answered, as if they had divined my thoughts; "heard it! Lord bless you, and he is very near us. You must not think of going alone into town. We were on our way to the block-house," (which I knew was a lie, for the little rascals had passed me before they rested, and

were evidently trudging towards Oran;) "but for the sake of seeing you safe into town, we will accompany you as far as the gate."

"Thank you," I replied; "but I apprehend no danger, and I cannot think of giving you so much trouble."

"Pooh! trouble, Sir, don't mention that; we must go with you."

In short, they were staunch hounds, who, having scented a job, would not give it up; so it was in vain for me to decline their protection. They loaded, or pretended to load, their muskets with ball, and vowed to shed the last drop of their blood in my defence. Much, to be sure, the lion would have cared for us all three! In safety we reached Oran. Near its gate stands an inviting cabaret, and thither my brave protectors threw significant looks.

"Gentlemen," I said, taking a franc out of my pocket, "I would give you this bit

of acknowledgment for your intrepid convoy, but I must not; for you will lay it out on two litres of brandy, (brandy is sold for ten sous a quart,) which will fill you drunk, and throw you into a fever." They looked very glum: "But, if you will treat yourself to wine with it, it is at your service."

"*Eh bien, donc,*" they responded; "*du vin, du vin.*"

We entered the cabaret, and I give you my word that the landlord brought them five bottles of not unpalatable red wine, brewed, I believe, from the native grape, for *tenpence*. Of course, what vintage can be expected at twopence a bottle? but I tasted it, and really this *boisson*, wholly unlike the alum and logwood-dye liquor sold for wine at Algiers, was very tolerable, and I warrant you my defenders got as brave as lions before they finished it.

I conjecture that when his leonic majesty roared, it was in indignation at some

destructive radical natives who were pursuing him, for he was killed a few miles from Oran that same evening; he had killed one camel for his breakfast in the morning, and I have no doubt if he had met with me would have dined off another. A Highland laird once said, when he heard it read to him that Job had six thousand camels, "Och! he had too much to do with the camels*, you will see that Shob will come to no good." In like manner, the lion paid dear for his meal on my namesake: the owner went out with some good marksmen, and next morning I saw the royal corpse in the possession of General Trezel, who had bought it, skin and all, for forty francs. Provoking this! had it been offered to me I would have given one hundred for it. The body measured seven English feet without the tail. All the *savants* in natural history have agreed that it could not be

* Campbell is pronounced *Camel* in the Highlands.

more than three years old, being lanky, and as maneless as a lioness, though if he had lived he would have grown a swinging fellow. His tongue was ate at General Trezel's table, and tasted, I am told, like that of an ox.

It was curious to contrast the youthfulness of this creature with the terror he had spread; the evening that his roar was heard, travellers were seen coming back to town on the roads in all directions, and the hyænas and jackals, who raise their psalmody far and near, omitted their vespers that night, and were as mum as death the two following evenings.

I have mentioned my acquaintance with the Spanish priest. I met him the other morning, and he apologized for not having returned my call the day before. "I was obliged," he said, "to be present at the death of a jackal."

"Well, Sir, I hope you had good sport."

"Sport!" said he; "why I was there to give him religious consolation."

"Indeed!"

"Yes, indeed!—and I assure you he died a very penitent Christian, though he had led a most dissolute life."

"Jackals are apt to do so; but what was his particular crime?"

"He was addicted to drinking, and finding a few francs in the breeches-pocket of a fellow-jackal, he killed him to purchase brandy."

"What the devil! jackals with breeches-pockets, drinking brandy, and dying like penitent Christians! You don't seriously mean, mio Padre, that you gave religious consolation to a beast?"

"Ha, ha!—hee, hee!" quoth the Padre. "Don't you know that all the soldiers of the light infantry regiment here are called jackals?"

Talking of jackals, I have purchased a

young one—not a biped, human brute, but a quadruped. An Arab came to my lodgings, offering the poor little puppy for sale; it licked my hand, as if it sought protection; and the touch of its tongue was eloquent. It is a playful creature, with pretty yellow fur, glazed, foolish blue eyes, and a constantly wagging tail. I delight in my protégé; and have the comfortable assurance that, whatever his faults may be through life, he will never disgrace himself by being addicted to brandy.

LETTER XXIV.

Want of public amusements at Oran—French punishment for Desertion—Description of a Military Execution—Remark of General Trezel on English flogging.

Oran, April 12, 1835.

THE people of Oran are sadly off for public amusements. There is not an earthquake above twice in a century: they have no theatre, and very few balls; but, in lieu of gayer spectacles, they have about once a month a military execution. You must not think me unfeeling for having spoken with levity of the last that occurred; the sufferer was as horrible a wretch as Burke or Bishop, and at his death he played the craven. Another punishment, however, has taken place, which has left on my mind a very different impression; the criminal

was a deserter; he had fled to an Arab tribe, but their hospitality consisted in pinioning him with ropes and bringing him back to the garrison for the usual reward of thirty francs that is given to the natives for such services.

I am aware that the French cannot help punishing desertion, and certainly shooting men for it is the most potent example they can hold out; yet, at the same time, one's compassion is not so much shut against a deserter as an assassin, and I pitied this poor creature when I heard of his doom. His case haunted me so much, that I consulted Captain Lagondie about the possibility of applying to General Trezel for a mitigation of the sentence, and told him that I had drawn up an appeal to his mercy for the poor man. "It will be worse than useless," said Lagondie; "you will only add unfairly to the distress which the General

has suffered from signing the death warrant. Yesterday evening, he was for hours in a state of melancholy agitation, revolving the question whether it was possible to save the culprit; the veins of his temples were swollen with anxiety, but, as there was conspiracy combined with desertion in this case, he was compelled to decide that there could be no pardon."

Of course, I suppressed my petition; but the impending execution so engrossed my thoughts, that, at the risk of your blaming my curiosity, I will own to you I resolved to see it. I made an appointment, therefore, with Lagondie to meet him at the square near the Kasbah, at half-past one next day, and to go out with him to the tragic spectacle, which was to take place at two o'clock, half a mile from town. All that evening, and the next morning, I felt like a fish out of the water. When I awoke

in the middle of the night, I thought to myself, What are now the sensations of the deserter? and again, after my morning's sleep, I put the same question. I rose early as usual, took coffee, rode out, returned to read, and tried to write and study; but neither by coffee, nor riding, nor reading, could I get rid of my thoughts about the deserter; and ever and anon I was pulling out my watch to count the hours he had to live.

At the time appointed, I joined Captain Lagondie, and we set out on foot to the spot of this real tragedy. Troops of cavalry came down from the Kasbah, with trumpets blowing as gaily as if it had been a military triumph, and a regiment of infantry marched beside us out of the city gate. We passed the prison where the victim was confined, and Lagondie pointed out to me the grated window of his apartment, through which he was listening to

the last music that he was ever to hear in this world.

Shortly we reached the ground where his fate was to be enacted. We took our stand on the top of the lime-rocks, whilst the troops, one thousand in number, formed three-fourths of a square on the plain beneath. At last, from the prison-gate came forth a company—their drums muffled with crape—and the victim in the centre on foot, followed by the horse and cart that were to carry back his dead body. He was quite unchained and had no priest with him. At first, they beat a slow march, but we saw him waive his hand to the drummers, and understood that it was a signal for them to beat quick time, which they did, whilst I dare say more hearts than my own quickened their pulsation. When they halted on the fatal stop, the commanding officer pulled out a paper, which was the sentence of death, and he read it with a loud and

stern voice. Every syllable that he uttered was audible though we stood at a considerable distance.

Meanwhile, the sufferer took his station with his back to the lime-rocks, and with twelve musketeers who were to be his executioners, in front of him. His air was free and resolute, and his step was manly, as I remarked it to have been all the way down from the prison. He threw away the cigar he had been smoking, and I could see its red end fading into blackness, like a foregoing symbol of his life's extinction. He then made his last speech, with a voice that was certainly not so audible as that which read his sentence; but, considering his situation, it was very firm, and its plaintiveness—Oh, talk not of Siddons's tones! —was more piercingly and terribly touching than I ever heard from human lips. I cannot pretend that he said in so many, or rather in so few words, what follows; but

though I may give more point to the substance of his speech, the following was its substantial meaning:—

"Comrades, what my sentence of death has told you is all true, except that it has unjustly called me the chief conspirator in this late desertion—for I seduced nobody into it; on the contrary, I was persuaded into it by others. The motive of my crime was merely an intense desire to see my father's family in Italy; and, now my heart's blood is to be shed, and my brains are to be scattered on the ground, because my heart yearned for a sight of my brothers and sisters, and because my brain could not forget them! Soldiers, who are to shoot me, do your duty quickly, and do not keep me in torment."

He then stepped forward some paces nearer his executioners, and, with steady hands and an erect air, bound a yellow silk handkerchief round his eyes. Eleven

musket-shots immediately laid him low, though he jumped up before he fell when the balls pierced him; the twelfth soldier going up to him as he lay on the ground, fired close into his head. You will not wonder that my tears at this crisis blinded me—when I dried them, I could not see the victim. I said to Lagondie, "Where is he?" "Look there," he answered, pointing with his finger; "don't you see a red stripe on the ground?" And sure enough I saw it; his red pantaloons made one part of the stripe, and his bleeding head and body made the other. All the troops then defiled around him. We came down to the spot, but, before we reached it, the body had been removed in a cart, and nothing remained but some blood and brains and a portion of his skull. I returned to my lodgings scarcely able to persuade myself that I had seen a reality. Oh, God! that man, who cannot put life

into a fly, can have any excuse for taking it from a fellow-creature!

I spent the evening at General Trezel's, where we were all in a congenial state of spirits, but it was not a cheerful state. "Well," I said, after we had been talking about the execution, "I have been wofully struck by this scene, but I think not so utterly horrified as I once was in seeing a soldier in England receive part of his punishment, which was three hundred lashes." "Ah! but," said General Trezel, "if the deserter to-day had been offered flogging instead of death, he would have gladly compounded for three hundred lashes."

LETTER XXV.

Mascara — Abd-el-Kader, the Tippoo Saib of Northern Africa—His treaty with the French—Peaceable intercourse between Oran and Mascara—Spectacle of the hundred heads—Character of Abd-el-Kader—Description of his Camp—The Mascaran Consul—The brave Sarmatians—Dangers of the road—Visit to Mr. Busnach—Encouraged by him to venture on the journey—His great kindness—Description of the country—Sufferings of the French Soldiers—Anecdote of an Infantry Officer—Arab encampments—Description of an Arab tent—Aspect of the country—A sample of barbaric simplicity—Description of Mascara—Market-place—Villa and garden-grounds of Abd-el-Kader—Return from Mascara—Encounter three suspicious characters—The river Hammam—The silk Umbrella and the phosphoric fire-kindler—Bitten by an Arab dog—The Patriarch of the Dascra—Return to Oran.

Oran, May 4, 1835.

I HAVE been at Mascara, eighty miles in the interior. I have slept under an Arab tent, and I have spent some days in a town

where everything is pure Africanism; where the sound of a Sabbath bell is unheard; and where you could not, if you had a thousand pounds in your pocket, purchase a pint of wine to drink after your dinner.

I postponed my journey for a fortnight, hoping every day to hear that Abd-el-Kader had returned to his capital; for to be at Mascara without seeing the prince, is like being at Rome without seeing the pope. It has been my misfortune, however, to have missed a sight of theMascaran hero, who is still busy in reducing some of his southern tribes to subordination. Abd-el-Kader is on a small scale the Tippoo Saib of Northern Africa; like his father, he is a Maraboot of renowned sanctity.* After

* Abd-el-Kader, the chief of Mascara and a large portion of the tribes in that direction, is a young man about thirty, but with a physiognomy that denotes a greater age. They say that his looks are expressive, his manners easy and distinguished, and his voice musical; he is reserved in

the French took Oran, he made considerable resistance to them, but matters were

speech, however, and rarely looks at the person whom he addresses; his hands, which are very handsome, are constantly employed with a rosary, but he wears neither ring nor jewellery. Excessively sober, he does not even smoke, or take snuff. His mind is cultivated, for he was educated with particular care by his father, who was reputed for learning and sanctity; he dictates with extraordinary rapidity, and is felicitous and frequent in quotations from the Koran to support his arguments: in his correspondence he often shows tact and address.

He eats alone, and takes the airs of a sovereign, yet his dress is always simple, consisting of a blue bournous trimmed with green. When on horseback he wears large red Morocco boots stitched with gold; he is looked up to with religious as well as military respect, and the people kneel at his approach; he was never seen to smile even in the plenitude of his power, and I should think his late defeats have not increased his facetiousness. Altogether, there are few living men better fitted to be a hero of poetry and romance than Abd-el-Kader. Lately the lord of some half a million of subjects, more or less subduced, he is now a fugitive in all the majesty of misfortune. The French officers, who were deputed to visit him after peace had been signed, describe their reception in his camp as gracious and hospitable. A tent contiguous to his own was allotted to them, and all the necessaries and luxuries that the country could afford were lavished on them: his care of their persons went even beyond their wishes. An

compromised; he was allowed to retain his principality—he has a Consul at Oran, and the French have a similar minister at Mascara. His treaty with the French is differently interpreted by him and them—he considers himself an independent sovereign—they regard him *as an ought-to-be*

Arab approaching too near to them had his head immediately struck off with a yatagan: when they expressed surprise at this severity, they were told that Abd-el-Kader, afraid of some fanatic throwing himself among the French to commit murder, had ordered twenty trustworthy men to watch over the safety of the strangers, and that this execution was merely a warning to the people not to be too curious. The French were received into his camp with military music, and the fire of muskets. Next day they accompanied the Prince into Mascara; the tents were rapidly struck and placed on the backs of camels, the baggage led the march, a band of music followed, and next came his Highness with a kind of gladiators, armed with bucklers, on his right and left, who made a show of fighting by way of amusing him. Horsemen nobly mounted, and richly clad, rode on the flanks and regulated the movements of the column; in this order they entered Mascara. The whole of Abd-el-Kader's field artillery amounted to two pieces, which, in a trial at marking, were very indifferently served by the native cannoniers.

tributary; but, for the present, they only talk to him about a tribute without exacting it, and they even assist him with arms and powder to subdue his refractory subjects, so that there is a peaceable intercourse between Oran and Mascara.

How long this truce may last is so very doubtful, that I resolved to set out for the interior, without waiting for the news of the prince's return to his capital. According to the last accounts, he wrote to his Mascaran Divan, that Heaven had been very propitious to him, inasmuch as he had captured seven thousand beeves from his enemies, and had it in his power to send them a hundred human heads, which, in compliance with the Divine will, he had ordered to be chopped off, and desired to be paraded on spear-tops through the streets of Mascara. I missed seeing this procession only by eight days. The French Consul told me that he could have touched many of the

heads, so close they came to his terrace, the spot from which we were looking. I may be culpable in regretting that I did not see this spectacle; but, supposing I had seen and enjoyed it, it would have made no difference to the heads.

I got a passport regularly signed by the Mascaran Consul here, a jolly-looking Moor, who sits so many hours a day with his cross-bar legs in his office at Oran. I bargained also for an interpreter and a couple of armed Arabs to accompany me; and a Moorish officer in the French service kindly lent me two of his Zouave horsemen, insisting that I should pay them only a stated and small gratuity, for here, as elsewhere, he said servants are spoiled if you overpay them. I hired, also, a strong mule to carry our provisions, among which was a small keg of wine, and a larger one of water, as the water of the African streams that we were to meet with is turbid and

unwholesome. Moreover, I was happy to anticipate, as companions of my journey, three Frenchmen, my fellow-lodgers in the Marine Hotel. I ought to mention, with gratitude, that I had an offer from the Polish exiles at Oran, who, to the number of forty, are quartered here; and, though not called on for military service, are allowed—the common men a franc a day, the officers more, on which they can live in barracks that are given them, very comfortably, the price of meat being but twopence a pound.

My friends, the brave Sarmatians, deputed one of their number to tell me that though they had not horses they had muskets and cartridges, and legs that would not fear a march of forty miles a day for many days consecutively, and that they would gladly turn out to a man to guard me into the interior; they had even arranged to get the loan of tents from the

Kasbah. I need not tell you how much my heart, which has Poland next to England nearest its core, was touched by this mark of their regard; but it occurred to me that I ought to decline it. My Polish friends are powerful boys, but it would have been cruel to exact their keeping up on a journey with men on horseback. Then the appearance of a numerous and armed pilgrimage might alarm the natives; and, in case of any misunderstanding, there might be awkward consequences.

I refused, therefore, the most flattering honour, in shape of an escort, that was ever tendered to me. Still, the presence of French companions on the journey was important to me, and it is better to travel over this part of the regency in a group of ten or twelve than in a smaller number. The natives are not dangerous, as tribes or as a general population; but there are vagabond cut-throats among them, attached to

no tribe or encampment, who go generally in couples, at most never more than three; and these, if they fall in with a very few travellers in a body, will be apt to beset them; but, meeting a larger group, they will reconnoitre, count muskets, and come to the conclusion that it would be a pity to shed blood.

In point of fact, on our return from Mascara, we met with three persons who crossed us and re-crossed us, and had a suspicious appearance of belonging to this description of travellers. We were nine in number, and there was among us a French dragoon serjeant bearing dispatches from the French Consul at Mascara to Oran, a tall, stalwart swordsman, whose sabre would have been a match for three yatagans. By his advice, we tried to keep as near to them as we could, without deviating from our main course, in order to show that we had no dread of them. My horse, indeed, by far

the fleetest of the party, was so strongly convinced of the policy of showing no fear, that if I had not curbed him and kept him by the side of our French dragoon, he would have very soon brought me up to the three vagrants. They disappeared ere long. I have my doubts whether they were marauding or merely hunting gazelles.

I have finished my journey in safety, but I shall never forget the night of anxiety which I spent at Oran before setting out. At ten in the evening, the three French gentlemen, my fellow-lodgers at the hotel, told me that they would not go to-morrow to Mascara. It would be madness, they said; several murders had been committed that very day by the Arabs, in the vicinity of Oran, and the road was haunted by assassins. An impartial person testified that he had seen two of the sufferers brought, mortally wounded, into the hospital. The very Arabs I had hired came in to signify

that without an immense deal more money than I had bargained for, they could not venture their lives in escorting me. One of my French fellow-lodgers paid off an Arab whom he had hired; and the last words that he said to me, as I retired to my chamber vowing that if the road were lined with murderers I should set out for Mascara, were—"Well, take your course, but I am not so fond of getting my throat cut."

In my life, I was never more vexed. Here, methought, is all my trouble in coming to Algiers thrown away. To have seen the half-Frenchified Africans is nothing; I want to see the unsophisticated natives in tent and town. Mascara, and the country between, were but yesterday within my reach, but they are now beyond it. I must be in Europe by a certain time —I must return *re-infecta*, and with my finger in my mouth; s'death, I am spited at my stars! And yet, let me think—a

yatagan poked into my stomach would be indigestible diet. To be murdered, ah! it would be very unpleasant; but, by all that is tantalizing, I will be murdered sooner than give up going to Mascara.

During the night, I rather dreamed than slept now and then; but rose by daylight, spitefully resolved to get into the interior. I knocked up my worthy Lagondie, at his quarters in the Kasbah. He calmed my fever by most welcomely assuring me that the number of murders outside the gates had been greatly exaggerated, and that they would deter no man but a coward from the journey. "But you know Mr. Busnach, the most influential Jew in the Regency, he understands Arabic; he mediated between the French and the Arab tribes, and was the chief means of bringing about peace. Let us call on him." We did so; and consulted him.

This Mr. Busnach was, like his father

before him, a partner of the house of Bacri and Co., once the most opulent merchants of Northern Africa. They had a capital amounting to millions sterling, but, in a transaction with the French Republic, they suffered severely, from a large debt being unjustly withheld from them.

The present Mr. Busnach is a man universally respected, and is a member of the Legion of Honour. When I saw him first, his appearance reminded me strongly of that of the late statesman Windham. I thought him haughty, even to an air of misanthropy; but still there was something of strong character which I liked in his mien and manner. This was the second time I had ever spoken to him, and you may guess that I was agreeably surprised when he said, "Mr. Campbell, be under no uneasiness; the murders that have been committed are no real indication of danger in travelling to Mascara. I will explain

this to the Arabs and Zouaves, who ought to attend you. I will myself accompany you half way to Mascara, introduce you to the patriarch of a tribe, and see you set off in safety next morning." With that, he immediately ordered his horse to be saddled. The Arabs joined us: I believe he said something to them in Arabic, about persons who break bargains deserving to be bastinadoed or flayed alive. I could not gather exactly what it was; but it must have been something very pleasant, for it made them all in the best possible good humour to proceed on the journey.

I shook hands with Lagondie, leaving him my gold watch and money, all but some five-franc pieces, to keep till my return. As we sallied out of the gate, I could hardly believe in my own good fortune. "Mr. Busnach," I said, "you lay me under an overwhelming debt of gratitude;" and do you wonder that I felt most sincerely

when I said so? Here was a proud man, in every sense of the word a gentleman—to whom I could have no more offered a remuneration, without insulting him, than to Mr. Windham if he had come alive again—taking the trouble to ride forty miles under an African sun, which is now becoming very hot, and who must measure back the same journey to-morrow morning, ay, and sleep on the ground in an Arab tent, all out of gratuitous kindness to your humble servant!

To be sure the journey turned out, like most things in life which we eagerly desire and obtain with difficulty, to be more pleasant in prospect than when attained. The country is monotonously wild—not naturally sterile, I believe; for, excepting the tracks formed by the beasts of travellers—which are the only roads—and some rocky spots on the hills, there is no ground that is absolutely bare or sandy; and on the

plain there was now a strong natural vegetation of asphodel, fennel, coarse grass, and wild thistles or artichokes, the tops of which contain a heart which our Arabs were constantly eating. But the eye is very soon sated with this houseless wilderness.

Some twelve miles from Oran, we passed the spot where, a year and a half ago, there had been hard fighting between the French and the natives. The French soldiers, though an overmatch for the Arabs, suffered dreadfully from heat and thirst. Their store of water was exhausted—the breath of the simoom set in—the cavalry stood its shock, and by their elevation from the ground were able to respire, but the foot soldiers fell by companies, gasping for breath. A captain of dragoons who was in the scene, told me that there was more than one instance of the infantry soldier, driven to madness by thirst and agony, putting his head to the mouth of his musket, and

his foot to the trigger, and committing suicide. One infantry *officer* alone gave way to despair; and, though it is probable that he was, in these circumstances, no more a responsible agent than a man in the delirium of fever, yet it was better, perhaps, that he did not survive the occurrence. He pulled his purse from his pocket; he said to his men, "I have led you into battle with courage, and I have always been a kind officer to you—the horror of my sufferings is now insupportable; let the man among you who is my best friend shoot me dead, and here are thirty louis d'ors for his legacy." No man would comply with his request; but, he had hardly uttered it, when he fell down and expired.

The sameness of our journey was relieved only by the sight, though far between, of Arab encampments, with majestic camels kneeling before them in rows of from fifteen to twenty. Our Arabs started several

gazelles, and parted from us for a mile at a time to pursue them; but, to my great satisfaction, they returned without being the death of one of them.

At twilight, we reached a dascra, the patriarch of which was known to Mr. Busnach. With Oriental etiquette, we halted at a respectful distance, and our Arabs shouted to call for a conference. A messenger came out. Our request for hospitality was complied with; and we entered the principal tent, amidst the barking of innumerable dogs, who, I thought, would have fastened on the legs of our horses. The women about the tents were milking goats and cows. The tent, covered with camel-hair cloth, was as large, I should think, as twenty-five feet in diameter, and very lofty. It was divided into two compartments by a cloth screen, but not so as to divide its tenants either by sex or species; for though I heard female voices and

squalling infants in the adjoining compartment, we had men, women, and cattle in the one where we supped and reposed. A wood-fire was lighted under the tent, the smoke of which would have choked us, but that it found vent under large open spaces beneath the tent-curtains, which only here and there are pinned down to the ground. We had for supper eggs, milk, and cous-cousou. The fashion is variable here as elsewhere. There was a time when an Arab would have stabbed you for the insult of offering him money for his hospitality; but I was told at Oran that it is now much better to give him silver than either presents or thanks; so, in cosing with my venerable host, I put some money into his hand, and he received it civilly. We slept on the bare ground, with our cloaks about us.

Next morning, I took leave of Mr. Busnach, and proceeded with my Arabs, to

Mascara, which we reached before sunset. I had an introductory letter to the French consul, whose house could be my only refuge, as there is not a single inn in Mascara. The country begins to be more hilly within the last twenty miles towards Mascara, and you begin to see symptoms of settled habitation in approaching the town. For a radius of two miles about it there are corn-fields, gardens, vineyards, and orchards; but both the horticulture and agriculture seemed to me to be wretched, though the grain was a little better bladed than on some patches of the desert farther off, where there is now and then a miserable barley-field, enclosed with dry thorn-bushes piled on each other. I observed many luxuriant vines, and plenty of oranges, but missed the date-trees which I had expected to find so far to the south.

We crossed on our way to Mascara only two considerable rivers,—the Sigg and the

Oued-el-Haman,—if rivers can be called considerable which, except when they are swollen by rain, can be forded on horseback. It gives one a dismal conception of barbarism to find those streams unfurnished with either a bridge or a ferry-boat.

A sample of ingenious barbaric simplicity met us on the same journey. We passed some Arabs who were sitting naked on the ground, with their habiliments spread out beside them. "What does this mean?" I inquired. I was told that their garments were purposely spread upon ants' hillocks; and that the ants, after devouring all the vermin which they find on the clothes, retire from them well satisfied into their nests. How instructive it is to see the world!

The French consul at Mascara is an Egyptian by birth; but, being a Christian, he joined the French when they invaded Egypt, and has risen to be a captain in

their service. He complained to me of the dismal dulness of his situation, as he has no companion but the French sergeant of dragoons already mentioned, who convoyed me back to Oran. My visit, he said, was a God-send to him, and he implored me to stop for a week—a request with which I could not comply.

Mascara is to be seen out and out in a few hours. It is about half as big as Algiers, encircled by a wall fifty feet high, without any ditch, but having some flanking towers. Its houses are square and flat-roofed, seldom more than a story high. Abd-el-Kader's palace has a quadrangular court, and a fountain in the middle of it, and consists of buildings that I think would let in London for about 100*l.* a-year, not counting taxes. I went to see his powder-manufactory, which consists of a few rollers and mortars—a miserable concern. The market-place is pleasant and airy, and sup-

plied with abundance of fruit, butter, and wool. I remarked the simplicity of manners in the weights being pieces of stone, Nevertheless, there are some shops filled with European articles. I visited a tannery that displayed some beautiful prepared leather; and I saw weavers with regular looms making fine white woollen cloth. What most surprised me was an embroiderer's shop: his articles were splendid. I priced one of them, but it was so costly that I could not purchase it.

The consul walked with me over the villa and garden grounds of Abd-el-Kader, about a mile out of town; there are vine-trellices, orange-groves, and even chiosques, but the whole appearance is poor in comparison with the villas around Algiers. When we came home and dined, we received crowds of Mascaran Moors in the evening; every day the consul told me that they come and drink about fourscore cups

of coffee with him, and beg other gratuities besides, which he cannot refuse. There were Maraboots in their white mantles among the gentle beggars.

After two days' residence, I left Mascara; the consul rode out with me a couple of miles on the way: he had cautioned me not to drink of the turbid water of the streams we had to recross, without mixing it with spirits or wine, and I knew that my keg of wine ought not to have been exhausted. But, when we halted at the river Hammam, twenty miles from Mascara, no wine was to be found. The Arabs had unquestionably tricked us on this occasion, and they certainly can both steal and drink. But still this does not affect my general impression, that their inebriety and dishonesty are very infrequent.

Here we were, however, without a drop of wine, spirits, or vinegar to unpoison the river water we had to swallow. I would

have given more money than I had in my pocket for but a cruet full of vinegar, but I determined to abstain from the yellow stream, and exhorted the Frenchman not to slake his thirst at it. We rode on for four hours under a sun that would have poached eggs on the crown of my hat; I suffered tormentingly from thirst, but at last we reached a dascra, and, waiting an hour till the milk was churned by being beat in a skin, for the Arabs will never sell you the fluid unchurned, we got gallons of buttermilk, which "we quaffed with ecstacy, and cooled our souls."

I found the people of this dascra very sociable. The women, who have none of the reserve of the city females, came about us, and I astonished them with my fine silk umbrella, which, strange to say, seemed to them a total novelty. The ladies chuckled and strutted about with it—nay, it seemed so popular among them, that I feared I

should be obliged to leave it as a souvenir; but the headman of the dascra brought it back to me on my presenting him with a parcel of choice tobacco. I showed them also a phosphoric fire-kindler, expecting they would be in raptures with it; but they looked very shyly at it, and, when I asked the reason, I was told, through the interpreter, that they liked the umbrella because it was the work of man, but for the other machine, it was the work of the devil. I protested to them that I had never in my life had anything to do with the devil, and asked them if there was anything more wonderful in sulphur and phosphorus kindling flame, than in a spark from flint igniting gunpowder. They shook their heads, and said, that they did not suspect me of having got this thing immediately from the devil, but that it was clearly of his contrivance.

We reached a dascra half-way to Oran

at sunset, and, after giving my host a largess, I disposed myself to sleep. My rest, however, was constantly interrupted by the execrable dogs, and made uncomfortable by the excessive cold of the night-dews, which came freely into the tent—so much so, that I was fain to couch between a calf and a nanny-goat, and I never slept with more welcome bed-fellows.

Ere the dawn, I rose, anxious that we might reach Oran in time for the steamer for Algiers, in which I proposed to embark. My friend, the sergeant, was still sleeping in his cloak, but I arose to see how far the moon was gone down. A dozen of dogs growled as I got up—I durst not venture to the tent-door unarmed, but hesitated between taking my pistols or sabre, and happily preferred the latter. The Frenchman afterwards told me that if I had shot one of the Arab dogs it was a chance whether my own life had not been forfeited.

But I took the sabre, and, when two of the curs set upon me, I cut and thrust at one of them, whilst the other succeeded in biting me just above the knee. The tenants then turned out, and I could see that there was a general anger at the Christian dog for having wounded the Arab dog, though they were all the time regardless of the bite I had received. I was not without some horror at the thought of hydrophobia, and should have cut out the wounded part if I had had a sharp instrument, but my razors were locked up in my portmanteau, which was corded to the other baggage. It was time to set out, and, as the virus of the dog's tooth had gone through the cloth of my pantaloons before it had pierced the skin, I thought there could be little danger.

Before departing, I made the interpreter talk with the patriarch of the dascra, and found him in better temper than his

people. "Why," said I, "do you keep such a number of savage dogs in your tents?" He answered, "We can never be perfectly sure of not being attacked, particularly at night, by either wild beasts or human robbers; and we are secured from both by the number of dogs in every dascra. The lion, for instance, never *now* attacks a dascra, because lions have a sort of traditional knowledge among them. The father-lion tells his son, 'Don't go down to that encampment on the plain, for there are twenty tents, and every tent has five dogs. These dogs are poor creatures to be sure, and your paw or your tail will knock them off like mice; but still they will harass and hang on you, and give time to the Arabs to level their guns and shoot you.' The same is the case with the robbers," quoth the Arab, "and in this way we keep them away from us."

I returned to Oran in the wished-for time,

but find that the steamer is not to sail till to-morrow. By that time, I shall have taken leave of my friends at Oran, and shall be the bearer of this letter to you as far as Algiers: from thence I mean to embark for Marseilles, and in a few weeks I shall see you in London.

APPENDIX.

[The following extracts from some of the most interesting Foreign Publications, on the subject of Algiers, &c., will be found to throw additional light on some important topics touched upon in the preceding pages.]

APPENDIX.

CATTLE.

[Vol. I. p. 34.]

THE natives are as much behind hand in respect to the rearing of cattle, as in regard to cultivation. On both subjects they are alike slothful and ignorant.

We are much in the dark as to the actual number of herds scattered throughout the countries that surround us; and, independently of the capricious character of the tribes, who may, when they please, reduce us to starvation, we carry along with us another enemy against whom we have daily and hourly to contend; this enemy is no other than the consumption of meat caused by Europeans in this country, and greatly exceeding that of the natives.

A comparison which I have had drawn up

of the consumption, distinguishing the quantity consumed by each nation, which comparison will be found annexed, substantially affords the following curious result.

The average quantity of meat consumed during the six first months of 1833, has been,

For a European 92 kilogrammes.
„ Moor 19½ „
„ Jew 9 „

Thus, a European has eaten four times and three-quarters more than a Moor, and ten times and a quarter more than a Jew.

The same comparison extended, to the whole year, produces the result of,

194 kilogrammes for a European.
43½ „ „ Moor.
21¼ „ „ Jew.

It will be seen that the quantities are rather higher than for the first six months; nevertheless the proportions are nearly the same.

I am only alluding to the civil population. It will readily be imagined that the consumption of the army is proportionably less. On comparing the net weight of the cattle killed in military slaughter-houses, with the effective strength of the troops, I have only found an

average of one hundred and sixteen and a half kilogrammes for each man.

The enormous difference observable between the Moors and the Jews, and between the latter and the French, is to be accounted for, with regard to the two first-named people, from the greater or less severity of their rules of worship. This abstinence from meat is still, no doubt, the true cause of the degeneracy of the Jewish races, perhaps, even of their utter want of courage and energy.

Should we fail to procure more numerous herds from the province of Tittery, we shall be under the necessity of drawing our bulls from Spain and France, and of turning our attention to the rearing of them. The existing scarcity, moreover, which must go on increasing, will render this a very productive branch of trade.

We have already applied to have bulls sent over from the South of France, and the government has given its sanction to the consequent expenditure.

Long before the conquest, a great proportion of the Barbary wool disposed of at Mar-

seilles was found to consist of fleece which in point of fineness, length, and silky quality was no ways inferior to the wool of Segovia and Leon, the most in repute in Spain.

History itself establishes this analogy; and we are enabled to ascertain, without entering into very deep researches, that Spanish sheep were originally derived from Barbary. Their first introduction is owing to Columella, a Roman subject, under the reign of the conqueror Claudius. Fourteen centuries afterwards, Cardinal Ximenes took advantage of the conquests of Charles V. in Africa, to form the model flock of the Escurial, an admirable nursery, where those breeds were regenerated, which have so long secured to Spain the monopoly of fine wool throughout Europe.

England having procured, in the time of Henry VIII., a great number of Spanish sheep, succeeded, by crossing the breed, in obtaining wool, which, owing to its length and fineness, soon came into demand.

Some ewes of Roussillon crossed with Spanish rams of a pure breed, have produced in

Saxony that expensive and highly-prized wool, so well known in commerce by the name of *electoral princes*.

In France, lastly, the improvement of this interesting branch of agricultural industry has but tardily engaged attention; and with the exception of a few experiments made by private individuals, amongst whom M. Delatour d'Aigues, is entitled to especial mention, we arrive, without any remarkable occurrence, at the year 1786, at which period Louis XVI. formed, by means of sheep procured from Spain, the flock of Rambouillet, which has maintained up to the present day its high character, owing to the beauty of its wool.

The wars of the empire, by opening the Peninsula to us, have favoured the rapid increase of Merinos and of a mixed breed; but the recruiting of our flocks was not attended to with the requisite discernment; for a very small number only have afforded a good produce; and disappointed hopes soon lapsed into aversion.

We are here at the primitive source of a mine of wealth, which ought not to be overlooked. We should be simultaneous in our

local inquiries, and unanimous in the course we are to pursue. Although the causes which have influenced in so untoward a manner, the condition of the large cattle of the regency, have also occasioned the degeneracy of its breed of sheep, and the very limited number of flocks in the neighbourhood of Algiers exhibit a great variety of breeds; the wool of the country is, nevertheless, remarked for its length, suppleness and elasticity. A few Merinos of a pure breed are even now and then to be found, whose beauty contrasts with the more or less degenerate forms of the surrounding sheep. This renovation will call for no greater effort than our drawing upon those valuable remains of a nearly extinct breed.

A model flock is the simple means I propose for attaining this object. By intrusting to an experienced individual the charge of selecting, amongst the friendly tribes which adjoin us, all the sheep of pure breed he might discover, we should at once have a nucleus which time would always enable us to fill up; we should thus,

In the first place, facilitate to the colonists

the means of improving their own flocks, by allowing their ewes to be covered by rams of the public establishment;

And secondly, we might export to France, where the species is on the decline, a portion of the young rams we should have thus been enabled to rear.

Such a flock, subjected to a rational system of hygiene properly followed up, would produce a still greater result, an improvement in the quality of the wool; for sound food and care are well known to contribute to the beauty of the fleece. It might be divided into lots of about one hundred and fifty sheep, each placed under the care of a shepherd, who should be made answerable for their deterioration and for the damage they might create. The plateaux, as well as the slopes of mountains forming the girdle of Algiers, which will yet remain for a long time uncultivated, would afford them a wholesome and abundant pasturage.

Besides the pasturage thus allotted to each of those partial flocks, it would be necessary to select a good soil, watered by pure and inexhaustible sources, where the sheep might

drink plentifully, and find those never failing means of cleanliness they stand in need of. Natural and artificial meadows might be formed on the same spot, for the purpose of providing them with a full supply of food during the season when herbage is most scarce; a simple shed, covered with reeds, and even tents, in the Arab fashion, might also be erected for their use.

I cannot exactly specify the expense which the formation of such a flock would occasion; the greater or less extension, moreover, which it might be deemed proper to give to it, would necessarily subject it to change; but if we enumerate the actual produce derivable from it, either by the sale of wool calculated at a high price, by the duty to be exacted from the colonists who should apply for the services of rams, by the sale of lambs, or lastly, (for every thing should be taken into account,) by the improvement of the land proposed to be turned to pasturage, but susceptible of being disposed of to advantage at a later period, I hesitate not in affirming, that the government would soon be reimbursed its advances, and would have the merit of conferring on this country a signal boon.

This project naturally leads us to propose a second, which is in some measure a completion of the first, and would only require a spacious tract of land; I allude to a farm on which might be reared,

1st. A herd of bearded horses, which it might be attempted to cross with other species, and which would at a future period prove highly useful for remounting our light cavalry.

2nd. A model herd of horned cattle destined to regenerate the breed of this country.

I would suggest the following commercial means of forming this herd: the drought, by causing a scarcity of forage, compels the Arabs to sell a greater quantity of cattle; the prices considerably diminish in consequence. By effecting our purchases with due regard to the extent of pasturage at our command, it were easy to procure at a cheap rate the choicest cattle; and when the bad season, by obstructing the roads and impeding the communications, should leave the markets unprovided; advantage might be taken of the rise in the price of cattle to sell again, at a great profit, a portion of what had previously been purchased. These first results,

so important in themselves, would promote a useful and excellent tillage; a dairy, the dung of swine and poultry would add by their produce to those which would be derived from the sales, as well as the duty to which I have just alluded. Whatever might be the expense of such an establishment, the positive amount of which I should at this moment be at a loss to determine, the eventual benefit is unquestionable. I affirm this under the strongest conviction; and if the government will not take upon itself the responsibility and trouble of carrying the measure into effect, let it promote and encourage the formation of a company which would embark in the undertaking. Be the agents whom they may, success could not fail to crown their efforts.

A few additional reflections.—We shall derive from the neighbourhood of Mascara and of Tlemsan, those beautiful stallions so universally envied to the Arabs, a valuable breed hitherto unequalled. We may also procure some from the southern part of the empire of Morocco, where the species is generally handsome, and is inured to every fatigue and priva-

tion. We may, in short, cross the mares of the country with our horses of the Pacha, and procure the draught-horses we stand so much in need of; these would be as indispensable to us for the service of the army, as for agricultural purposes.

The Moors and Arabs are deficient in their selection of the species, as well as in the choice of pasturage for their flocks. They employ part of the wool to manufacture their clothing and carpets, and sell the remainder. Black sheep are rarely to be seen in the regency; it is, perhaps, owing to this reason, that the men and women are generally clothed in white; whilst in Spain, owing to a contrary reason, whole populations are dressed in colours bordering upon red, because dark sheep abound in that country.

A great portion of the land in the vicinity of Algiers is covered with thick bushes; considerable expense would accordingly attend the attempt to clear it; there could be no better speculation than to reserve it for rearing cattle. Two signal advantages might flow from this course; success would repay its adoption, and a fall in price, as respects the

consumers, would be the further consequence of it.

Two pair of camels have just been forwarded to the department of the Landes; should they resist the damp climate of that province, such a result will be of the highest importance *.—*Genty de Bussy*, vol. i. p. 250.

ALGIERS.—EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

[Vol. I. p. 51.]

TUNIS supplies us with horses.

The small ports of the regency furnish us, to a certain extent, with fruit, grain, honey, wax, oil, skins, and common earthenware. We have, of late, received from Oran a considerable quantity of grain and wool.

With respect to exportations, Marseilles and Leghorn are the two ports which afford us an almost exclusive outlet for the few articles to which they have hitherto been limited, namely, dried and salted skins, wax, and com-

* They have been sent at the request of M. Laurance, a deputy from that department.

mon oil. Tunis also procures from the regency of Algiers, wax, and a certain quantity of vermilion, or kermes.

There existed, originally, such utter confusion in the registers of the custom-house, that it would have required much time to ascertain, in however imperfect a manner, the figures exhibiting the imports and exports: but they have been accurately laid down for 1832, and afford the following result:—

Value of imports	6,611,408 francs.
Value of exports	774,443 ,,

Balance against Algiers 5,836,965 francs.

The difference is still greater for the first six months of 1833; for the imports amount to 4,164,874 francs, and the exports have approximately decreased by one-seventh, as compared to those of the preceding statement.

It is thus perceived that we have yet much to perform ere we can bring the exports to a level with the imports. The statements annexed to this work, as well for the last six months of 1833 as for the first six months of 1834, will afford matter for further comparison.—*Ibid.*

COMPARISON OF THE PRICE OF ANIMALS AND PROVISIONS at Algiers in 1830 (previously to the French occupation) and in 1833.

[Vol. I. p. 51.]

Species of Animals and nature of Provisions.	Unity of Measure.	Mean Prices	
		In 1830.	In 1833.
		Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Ass	each	15 —	60 —
Butter, in winter	lb. of 27 oz.	1 50	2 —
—— in summer	do.	75	1 25
Corn*	do.	—	—
Ox	each	18 —	60 —
Fire-wood . . .	ass-load	75	1 50
Goose	each	90	2 —
Camel†	do.	300 —	300 —
Charcoal	ass-load	1 50	3 50
Horse, ordinary .	each	50 —	200 —
—— showy . .	do.	100 —	400 —
Goat	do.	2 50	10 —
Wax-rolls‡ . . .	lb. of 16 oz.	1 40	1 40
Lemons	per 100	60	2 50
Courges	mule-load	1 50	3 50
Figs, fresh . . .	lb. of 18 oz.	5	20
—— dried . . .	lb. of 27 oz.	10	45
—— of Barbary§	per 100	15	14

* The price has doubled; though French bread be made with flour brought from France.

† Europeans make no use of them.

‡ The Dey alone had the privilege of selling wax; this had the effect of maintaining it at a high price.

§ Only in use amongst the Arabs.

COMPARISON, &c.—(*continued*).

Species of Animals and nature of Provisions.	Unity of Measure.	Mean Prices In 1830.	Mean Prices In 1833.
		Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Game *	———	—	—
Pomegranates . .	per 100	4 —	12 —
Olive oil † . . .	meas. of 16 litres	5 —	12 —
Milk	measure of	25	5
Vegetables, fresh‡	———	—	—
Do. dry (beans)	per sack	4 —	12 —
Honey	lb. of 27 oz.	80	80
Sheep	each	2 50	14 —
Mule §	do.	150 —	350 —
Eggs	per 100	1 20	5 —
Oranges	do.	1 20	2 50
Barley	per sack of 60 litres	1 20	5 —
French bread, first quality	per kilogramme	—	50
Do., second do. .	do.	—	45
Water melons and melons	mule-load	1 50	3 —
Pigeons	a pair	30	1 —
Wood-peas . . .	per sack	5 —	10 —
Potatoes of the country	per quintal	2 50	7 —
Fowls and chickens	a pair	50	2 50
Raisins, fresh . .	lb. of 18 oz.	5	15
Do., dry	lb. of 27 oz.	25	60
Soap	do.	20	55
Salt	per 30 kilgms.	2 40	4 50
Milch cow and its calf	———	45 —	80 —

* There was no consumption of game before the occupation. † The price occasionally rises to eighteen francs.

‡ The price has risen five-fold.

§ The use of a horse was forbidden to the Moors.—*Ann. d'Alger*, 1833.

BOMBARDMENT OF ALGIERS IN 1682.

[Vol. I. p. 65.]

THE year 1682 was rendered remarkable by the bombardment of Algiers. The town continued a prey to disturbances. The Deys elected, deposed, and massacred in succession, seemed to disappear as suddenly as they made their appearance. The treaties concluded by the one with any of the Christian powers were not observed by his successor; all was utter confusion; divested of authority, the Pachas were in danger as soon as they attempted to take an open part in public affairs. The Corsairs, in the meanwhile, continued their inroads upon friendly or hostile vessels, which were indiscriminately treated alike. The complaints of the French merchants induced Louis XIV. to despatch the Marquis Du Quesne with a squadron, which spread terror in Algiers by the capture of several vessels, and afterwards approached the town, and bombarded it. The incessant discharge of bombs set fire to the greater part of the houses, and destroyed the great Mosque. The alarmed inhabitants were preparing to quit the town, when a sudden change of wind

compelled the Marquis Du Quesne to return to Toulon. The divan no sooner beheld his departure than it let loose its Corsairs, with orders to commit ravages along the coasts; and this fresh insult drew upon the town another chastisement.

The Marquis Du Quesne again set sail, and Algiers was bombarded a second time. Alarmed at the ruin of the town, and of his palace, the Dey opened a negotiation, which he intrusted to the French consul, who repaired to the fleet with a Turkish deputy. The admiral refused to see the latter; and previously to treating about a peace, insisted that, in the first instance, all Christian slaves captured under the French flag should be restored to him. His demand was at once granted; one hundred and forty-two French captives were sent to him on the following day, and those who were dispersed through the country were collected on the subsequent days. As soon as these were delivered up, the conditions of peace were then entered upon. M. Du Quesne required that all Christians

should be set free, and that all the effects, merchandise, and ships, taken from the French, or under the protection of their flags, should be restored. The Dey was greatly perplexed at these conditions, for he was not at liberty to grant them. He assembled the divan. Admiral Mezomorte, who was present, warmly opposed the proposal, reproached the Dey with cowardice; then rushing into the open square, caused him to be deposed, and himself to be proclaimed Dey in his stead. He immediately hoisted the red flag, broke the truce, and was the first to renew hostilities. He had the audacious cruelty to order the French consul to be put into a mortar, and to be fired with a bomb against the fleet. The revenge taken of this act heightened his rage; he caused all the French in Algiers to be seized, and several of them to be placed at the cannon's mouth. This act of atrocity gave rise to an affecting scene, which strikingly contrasts with Mezomorte's ferociousness.

An Algerine captain had been taken, during a piratical incursion, by a French vessel, whose commander had treated him with marked humanity and kindness during his captivity,

and had at last restored him to liberty. The Algerine recognized this officer in the person of one of the victims they were in the act of tying to the cannon's mouth. He instantly flew to the Dey, implored the Frenchman's pardon, and stated the motives which made him sue for his life. The ferocious Dey refused to listen to him, and ordered the cannon to be fired. The Algerine unhesitatingly threw himself upon the Frenchman, embraced him, and closely pressing him in his arms, turned to the gunner, and calmly said, "Fire; since I cannot save my benefactor, I shall die with him." All the spectators were affected at this sight; the gunner withdrew, and the people rescued the Frenchman in spite of the Dey, who, though unmoved at the scene, was unable to oppose any resistance.

M. Du Quesne did not quit Algiers until he had burned all the vessels, ruined and destroyed the whole of the lower, and two-thirds at least of the upper town.

The fear of his return led the Algerines to sue for peace. Mezomorte, on perceiving their determination, took to flight; and they sent an embassy to Paris in the following year.

The speech addressed to the King by Hagi-Giager-Aga-Effendi, who was charged with this commission, cannot fail to excite curiosity; it will be seen how the Algerines attempted to excuse themselves for the consul's death.

"Most high, most excellent, most powerful, most magnanimous, and most invincible Prince, Louis XIV., Emperor of the French, may God preserve thee, and render thy reign prosperous.

"I come to the foot of thy sublime throne to express to thee the delight which the conclusion of peace has caused to our republic, and to the Dey, our master, and to beseech thy Majesty to affix the last seal to it. The strength of thy arm, the brilliant deeds of thy ever victorious warriors, have convinced them of the error committed by Baba-Hassan, when he had the temerity to declare war against thy subjects. I come, in the character of deputy, to solicit thy pardon for such transgression, and to protest to thee that henceforward we shall have nothing so much at heart, as to deserve the good graces of the greatest conqueror of the Christians, the only one of whom we stand in awe.

"We should have every reason to apprehend that the detestable crime committed against the person of thy consul might be an obstacle to peace, if thy Majesty, to whom everything is known, were not well aware to what excess may be carried the rage of an excited and disorderly populace, who, in the midst of their fellow-countrymen, amongst whom were their fathers, brothers, and children, crushed by thy bombs, beheld, moreover, their slaves and their goods wrested from them. In short, whatever may have been the motives of this act of violence, I come to beseech that thou wouldst avert thy eyes from a deed which all honest men amongst us have held in abhorrence, especially the members of the divan, to whom it cannot, therefore, be justly imputed.

"We hope, O mighty Emperor, who art as great as Schemchid, as rich as Karma, as magnificent as Solomon, as magnanimous as Akemptas, that thy clemency and mercy will be extended to our humble supplications. We likewise hope from thy generosity, the return of our brethren who are captives in thy fetters, in order that the gladness of this happy peace may be complete; and that whilst the Chris-

tian slaves, restored to their country, shall prostrate themselves at thy feet and bless thee, our own people, returning to the vast dominions of Africa, may there proclaim thy magnificence, and implant in the hearts of their children a deep veneration for thy incomparable virtues.

"This will prove the happy foundation of a lasting peace, which we, on our parts, promise to fulfil scrupulously in all its articles, feeling assured that thy subjects, who owe implicit obedience to thy authority, will as religiously observe them on their own parts.

"May the Almighty and merciful Creator bestow his blessing upon it, and maintain perpetual concord between the most high, most excellent, most powerful, most magnanimous, and most invincible Emperor of the French, and the most illustrious and magnificent Pacha, Dey, Divan, and victorious militia of the republic."—*Anecdotes Africaines.*

THE ARRIVAL OF THE FRENCH IN ALGIERS.

[Vol. I. p. 71.]

As soon as Bourmont had effected an entrance into the fort of the emperor, Hussein Pacha assembled all the *armies*, the notables of the country, the lawyers, &c. &c. He represented to them the critical situation in which the town was placed, and asked their advice, with a view to consider of some measure of safety, some remedy to the evil. "Be under no restraint, my friends," he said to them, "speak candidly your opinion; under the existing circumstances, we must deliberate on the most effectual means, and I am but one of your number,—what do you think? is it possible to offer any further resistance to the French? or must the town be rescued by agreeing to a treaty in the nature of a capitulation?"

The assembly felt much perplexed, not knowing whether the Pacha spoke in earnest, or merely desired to sound the real sentiments of the principal inhabitants. It was also feared that the Pacha was anxious to ascertain what was the effect produced by Bourmont's pro-

clamations which had been distributed at Algiers. At such a moment it was deemed proper to dissemble; some resentment was apprehended on the part of the Dey in case pacific dispositions were displayed; the unanimous reply was therefore, as follows: We will all fight to the last extremity; nevertheless, if your Highness prefers resorting to other means, you are at liberty to do as you think proper; we shall conform to your will.

The assembly accordingly broke up to prepare for battle. It must, however, be admitted that proclamations, spread in the name of the French nation, of a nation whose magnanimity and love of justice were proverbial, could not fail to exercise a powerful influence on the public mind, and to incline cautious and moderate men to the adoption of pacific measures. These people reasoned thus to each other: due regard being had to the safety of the sovereign, we must not, by resorting to extremities, expose the inhabitants and the town to imminent danger. Consistently with this argument, it is easy to perceive that if the leading inhabitants had entertained apprehensions of being oppressed, plun-

dered, and massacred, had they suspected their being treated as we are treated at the present day, they would have staked their all; for the advantages of a war, as historians inform us, are only to be secured by exposing one's life, and braving every danger. In all great catastrophes to which this world is subject, a happy existence must be purchased at the price of one's life. The ancients were, therefore, wont to say, that nothing venture nothing have.

Thus, then, all the energy that might have been displayed, was paralyzed by those vague and unmeaning proclamations. Such documents no longer form part of the stratagems of war; the question was one of honour and good faith; the promises were positive; and it may be openly avowed that their violation has been a political delinquency.

During the same night, several notables of Algiers assembled in the fort of the gate of the Navy; they were merchants and capitalists. They demonstrated that the town was irretrievably lost, and that if the French forcibly entered it, they would plunder and massacre all the inhabitants, the defenceless women and

children, and that it were better to adhere to the pacific proposals of the Dey, by stipulating a treaty with the chief of the French army. It was supposed that an honourable nation would not violate its treaties; that we should enjoy our liberty and be dealt with according to the dictates of justice. Whether we were governed by Peter or by Paul, it mattered not, provided we were well governed, according to the principles of the French government, and our religion was not infringed upon. Religion is a moral object which will not be denied to us: the French are men, and a spirit of fraternity will bind us to them. Civilization, moreover, is founded upon the rights of nations; we have, therefore, nothing to fear from a civilized people. Such were in the result, the reflections which led us to avoid offering any resistance to the French army.

The religion of the Turks is the same as ours; we were, doubtless, less bound to prefer their government; but, as in the present case, our property, our laws, and our religion were respected, and that in the contrary case we should have to expose our lives, to shed blood in torrents, to witness the plunder of our

property, and the massacre of our women and children; so many considerations recommended a treaty of peace, that we concluded the treaty.

The meeting sent, in this emergency, a deputation to the Casaba, to communicate the project to the Dey. The Dey's reply was, that he would act the next day in conformity with the wishes now intimated to him.

He sent, accordingly, on the following day, the *Makatagy*, accompanied by the English consul, with a flag of truce, and *Sidi Abou Darba* with my son *Haggi Hassan*, as interpreters acquainted with the French language, in order that they might repair to the Commander in Chief, and open a negotiation with him.

This *Makatagy* was initiated in the conspiracy of the Khaznagy. This man had the baseness to attempt entering into a treaty with the Commander in Chief—with the intention of raising this Khaznagy to the rank of sovereign; he accordingly ventured to propose to the French general, that he should bring him the head of Hussein Dey, and conclude with France such a treaty as might be acceptable

to her. General Bourmont replied to him: *I am not come to encourage assassinations, but to wage war; and I accept the proposal of Hussein Pacha, who desires to stipulate a capitulation. I applaud his humane sentiments, for, by displaying them he prevents much effusion of blood.* The capitulation was, therefore, eventually discussed and agreed upon.—*Sidy Hamdan*, vol. i. p. 190.

CULTURE SUSCEPTIBLE OF IMPROVEMENT, OR OF BEING INTRODUCED.

[Vol. I. p. 96.]

APRICOT-TREE—very rare; the fruit is of bad quality.

AGAVA-TREE (*American agava*)—long since imported into Algiers; is used, as in the south of France, for forming hedges. Nets and other works are made with the filaments drawn from the leaves. The stuff, which grows very rapidly, is extremely fine, and may be used as rural timber-work.

ALMOND-TREE — the growth should be

greatly increased, not so much for the almonds as for the purpose of grafting.

PINE-APPLES—very rare.

BANANA-TREE—the banana-tree and the fig banana-tree are only cultivated in a few gardens.

COCHINEAL CACTUS-PLANT—attempts to introduce the cochineal-plant have been commenced in the Dey's garden.

SUGAR-CANE — Doctor Chevreau planted in the Dey's garden, in 1830, four small twigs taken from canes discovered amongst briers in that garden. Fourteen months afterwards, each plant consisted of from fourteen to sixteen stalks, six metres in height, which have been used for forming plantations on several properties.

Bearing in mind an American colony, and the manufactories of sugar from beet-root, it becomes a question how far it might be proper to encourage at Algiers the cultivation of the sugar-cane.

CAROL-TREE—in the Levant, the fruit of the carol-tree is given as food to beasts of burden; it even forms a nourishment for the poor, and its luscious pulp is used in the

making of sherbet. It is also used, instead of honey or sugar, for the confection of other fruit. It will produce, by fermentation, a vinous liquor; and by distillation, a species of alcohol. The carol-tree grows in the worst ground. At Algiers the plant is robust, but the bark very thin.

CHERRY-TREE—rare. The cherries are poor and small. After three years, the cherry-tree sickens, and becomes gummy.

APPLE-TREE—very rare: the fruit is of a bad quality.

POTATOES—not much cultivated, and of indifferent quality.

PLUM-TREE—very rare: the fruit is of a bad quality.

RICE—not cultivated in the neighbourhood of Algiers, but in the interior of the country. Little in use amongst the inhabitants, who prefer the vermicelli made from wheat.

EATABLE CYPERUS.—In Spain, the tubercles of its roots are used for making a species of orgeat.

TOBACCO—may eventually replace in France, the tobacco of Virginia and of the Havannah. A tobacco manufactory established by M.

Bouffey, in the early period of the French occupation, affords an excellent produce.

TURPENTINE-TREE—very common. This tree produces the turpentine. The fruit also produces good lamp-oil.

VINE-TREE.—Barbary wines were formerly in great repute. During the dominion of the Turks, the vine was only cultivated for the sake of eating the raisins. Algiers can produce excellent dry raisins: suitable land for vineyards is everywhere to be found; this species of cultivation should, however, be encouraged for those vines only which would produce wines of a quality different from the French wines.

LENTZ-TREE—very common. In the Levant, there is derived from it a substance called mastic; the fruit also produces good lamp-oil.

INDIAN-CORN.—The mixture of Indian corn and wheaten flour produces a savoury bread.

COMMON MELONS—are of a very good quality.

WATER MELONS—the same.

WINTER MELONS.—The Winter Melons of Algiers are not equal to those of Valencia.

WHITE MULBERRY-TREE—was not to be found at Algiers before the occupation. The leaves of the Perrottet Mulberry-tree (Multicauli of the Philippines) are the most productive.

Doctor Chevreau was the first who reared silk-worms at Algiers. His attempt dates from the spring of 1831. The egg, being preserved without any precaution, was used in the succeeding spring for making a large quantity of balls, which produced nearly fifteen pounds of very fine silk. The silk was spun on the spot, and samples of it were sent to Marseilles, Lyons, Paris, and Tours. There is every reason to hope that the result obtained in 1833 will prove as successful as those of the preceding years.

The leaves employed proceeded from about forty very old and very common mulberry-trees.

Another colonist, Mr. Maurice, though placed in less favourable circumstances, exhibited a very praiseworthy perseverance in making attempts which have not completely answered his expectations, and the expenses of which have not been met by the produce.

M. Chevreau planted on his property of Bir-mad-Reis, in 1831, a hundred and twenty grafted white mulberry trees, ten years old.

In 1832, fourteen hundred Perrottet or multicauli mulberry-trees.

In 1833, several hundred grafted white mulberry-trees.

Europeans were hitherto only acquainted with the species of silk furnished by the caterpillar of the mulberry-tree; but M. Lamare-Picquet has of late brought from Bengal very remarkable balls produced by another caterpillar, which lives on the tree in a wild state, and is not susceptible of being tamed. The butterfly proceeding from it has received from Linnæus the name of *Phalæna paphia*. Its larva subsists on the *Rhamnus jujuba*, and on the *Terminalia aleta glabra*. The worm of Bengal is far more productive than the European worm, and its silk has greater firmness.

Olive-tree—is common and fine; it runs no risk of a frost, like those of Provence. Three oil-mills have been brought from France, and put up in the establishments of Messrs. Nadaud, Lacrouts, and Paul Raynaud. The

first attempts, in spite of adverse circumstances, have nevertheless proved that very fine oil might be obtained from Algerine olives.

M. Raynaud has recourse, for grafting the olive-tree, to a process by which the tree is productive after a lapse of two years. He has offered to communicate it gratuitously to all who might desire to avail themselves of it.

ORANGE-TREE.—Oranges are very abundant and of excellent quality.

PEACH-TREE—very rare: the fruit is of a bad quality.

PEAR-TREE—the same.

PEAS—may be had throughout nearly the whole year, by means of water, and by being properly exposed to the sun.

SECTION II.—*Plants which might be transplanted to Algiers.*

SOCOTRINE ALOES produce a resin which affords a very fine coloured purple. It grows spontaneously in Senegal, and on the mountains of the Cape of Good Hope, is cultivated in the Caribbee Islands, in Spain and in Italy.

AMYRIS GILEADENSIS—A tree of the tur-

pentine species, which produces the Balm of Mecca or of India.

WILD PINE-APPLE-TREE—a textile plant, known in Guiana by the name of *Pitte* Pine-apple-trees.

BREAD-TREE (*artocarpus incisa*) is one of the most valuable vegetable plants. Its fruit affords an abundant, wholesome, and pleasant nourishment.

AGUNCATE-TREE — (*Laurus Persia*). Its fruit, the aguncate, also bears at Guiana the name of *vegetable butter.*

CHESNUT-TREE — very rare. A very fine one is to be seen at Bir-mad-Reis, and three at the forage-store of Bir-Kadem.

LEMON-TREE—already become common. The growth should be further increased. Its fruit is excellent.

WILD QUINCE-TREE.—Preference should be given to the species called Chinese Quince-tree.

BEANS.—By means of water, and by being properly exposed to the sun, they may be had nearly throughout the year.

FIG-TREE.—The Carthage Figs were for-

merly in great repute. Those of Algiers are too mucous, and less sweet than French Figs.

WHEAT.—The country of Algiers was the granary of Rome. The hard corn of Bona should be sown in preference to any other. In their couscousou, the inhabitants make much use of the vermicelli of wheat.

POMEGRANATE-TREE.—The fruit is large and of good quality.

KIDNEY-BEANS—may be had nearly the whole year, by means of water, and by being properly exposed to the sun.

JUJUB-TREE—common.

AZEROLE-TREE—cultivated at Marseilles.

BOSWELLIA SERRATA.—A tree of the turpentine species, which produces the Indian incense. Opinions differ as to the vegetable which produces the African incense.

COCOA-TREE—(*Theobroma cacao*) requires much heat.

COFFEE-TREE.—The small, round grained quality should be preferred; the most valuable plants are those derived from Mocha and Bourbon.

CAMPHIRE-TREE — (*Laurus camphora*). —

Camphire is extracted, either by making an incision in the tree, or by boiling in water and in covered vases, the branches cut up into pieces.

CINNAMON-TREE—(*Laurus cinnamonum*) propagates by its seeds, which only require a great degree of heat to make them spring up. The Pacha of Egypt is said to have caused a quantity to be planted round Cairo.

CHINESE CHOUI-LA-CHOU.—An aquatic tree which produces wax, and respecting which we as yet possess imperfect knowledge.

OFFICINAL COPAIBA.—(*Copaifera officinalis*) of the leguminous species. Produces the balm of Copaiba; requires great heat.

COTTON-TREE—grows at Algiers in a wild state. The species with long silk, such as that of Pernambuco, should be imported in preference to any other. The herbaceous cotton-tree was cultivated at Tunis fifty years ago.

FICUS-ELASTICA.—A tree which produces the milky condensed juice, known by the name of *caoutchouc*.

CLOVE-TREE—(*Caryophyllum aromaticum*) requires much heat.

ARBOR CHIBERE. — (*Gummii.*) Gum-trees are not yet well known; they usually belong to the *acacia* and *mimosa* species.

GOYAVA-TREE—(*Psidium pyriferum*) of the myrtle species. Thrives in the Garden of Plants at Toulon. In the Caribbee Islands, preserves and jellies are made from Goyavas.

GUNDELIA TOURNEFORTII.—Its roots are savoury and less insipid than those of the salsify and the scorzonera.

HEVEA GUIANENSIS.—A plant which, like the *Ficus-elastica*, produces the condensed milky juice called *caoutchouc*.

IGNAME.—A tuberous root in great use in the Caribbee Islands.

INDIGO-TREE.—The species which furnish the commercial indigo are, 1st. the *indigofera argentea*. 2nd. the *indigofera tinctoria*. 3rd. the *indigofera anil*. 4th. the *indigofera dispemra*.—A trial was made by Mr. Fougeroux, in 1821, and the indigo obtained by him proved of a tolerably good quality.

JAMROSADE (*Eugenia Jambos*). Has thriven in the hot-house of the Garden of Plants in Paris. The pulp of its fruit has a pleasant smell somewhat resembling that of the rose

this procured for it the name of the *rose-apple.*

CHINESE KANE-LA-CHOU.—On the branches of this shrub, insects are found whose bodies assume, during summer, a kind of crust, which is the wax itself. It is gathered in the month of September.

CHINESE LIT-CHI—(*Euphoria-lit-chi*). Its fruit tastes like an excellent Muscatel raisin.

LITTŒA GEMINI-FLORA.—A textile plant, which only needs a temperate greenhouse. The fibres drawn from its leaves afford a kind of flax which is said to be of great beauty.

MANGO-TREE.—Very common in the Caribbee Islands; is easily propagated by means of its stones, which retain a germinating power for upwards of a year. This tree has thriven in the greenhouse of the Garden of Plants at Paris.

MANGOUSTAN.—(*Garcinia mangoustana.*) Its fruit is better than the mango. It requires much heat.

NERIUM TINCTORIUM OF BENGAL.—It is said to produce a finer colour than what is produced from plants of the indigo species.

CHINESE OU-KIEOU-MOU-TREE.—(*Croton*

cebiferum) a tallow-tree. Its seeds are covered over with a cebaceous, rather firm, and very white substance, which supplies the Chinese with matter for making candles. It has thriven very well in the Garden of Plants at Toulon.

PASSIFLORA QUADRANGULARIS.—Its fruit is of the size of a melon, and its pulp very delicate. This plant is well adapted for lining cradles.

SWEET POTATOES. — M. Chevreau has planted some this year.

PHORMIUM TENAX.—A textile plant, also known by the name of New Holland Flax, has thriven at Toulon. The filaments obtained from the leaves of this plant, are much stronger than those procured from hemp, and the cordage made from it presents, in an equal quantity, one-third more resistance than what is made from the filaments of hemp.

PISTACHIO-TREE—is cultivated at Tunis.

PEPPER PLANT—(*Piper nigrum*) requires much heat.

BARK.—The species used for medical purposes are very numerous. See the article Bark in the 46th volume of the *Dictionary of Medical Sciences.*

RHAMNUS JUJUBA.—A tree of Bengal on which is found a silk-worm, which affords a more abundant and a more valuable produce than the caterpillar of the mulberry-tree.

MUSK ROSE-TREE.—The Musk-rose is cultivated at Tunis, in order to extract from it the essence of rose.

TERMINALIA-ALATA-GLABRA.—A tree of Bengal, on which is found the same silk-worm as on the *Rhamnus jujuba.*

TEA-PLANT.—In China and Japan, the tea-plant thrives best on the slopes of hills exposed to the south, and in the vicinity of running streams.

BALSAMIC TOLU.—(*Toluifera balsamifera*) produces the balm of Tolu.—Requires much heat.

CHINESE TSI-CHOU—(*Angia Sinensis*). A tree which produces the fine varnish called *Chinese varnish.* This resinous juice flows from incisions made in the stem.

VANILLA-TREE — (*Epidendrum vanilla*). This plant thrives only in inundated places abounding in large trees and constantly covered with damp and warm vapours.

Observations.—The plants employed for me-

dical purposes, and which would thrive in the territory of Algiers, are too numerous to be each specially noticed in this place; but the attention of the colonists should be drawn to those which produce ipecacuanha, senna, cassia, tamarinds, manna, rhubarb, and jalap.

The foregoing statement only relates to productive plants. Amongst those ornamental plants which would be adapted to the embellishment of gardens, it is proper to mention the liliaceous plants of the Cape of Good Hope, the leguminous, melaleacous, metrosiderous plants; the Eucalyptus of New Holland. To this species may be added the magnolias, camelias, straw-rose-tree, *azalias*, keturias, dahlias, and lobelias.

The Garden of the Navy at Toulon, and that of Plants at Paris, can supply the greater part of the plants comprised in the second section. It is proper to remark that those which are indigenous to the warmest climates require, nevertheless, when young, to be sheltered from the heat of a burning sun: all must be protected from the open wind.

The fruit-trees of France, the potatoes, and a few vegetables, soon degenerate at Algiers.

It is necessary to bestow upon them greater care than they have hitherto received.

The cultivation of many European and intertropical plants can only be attempted, with any prospect of success, in the acclimating garden.—*Ann. d'Alger*, 1833.

VARIOUS PLANTS.

[Vol. I. p. 100.]

THE statements we have caused to be drawn up will afford some evidence of our progressive improvement. We are happy to have it in our power to include Bona and Oran with Algiers, and to establish the fact that experiments, at least, have everywhere simultaneously taken place.

In the first rank of various plants, we must place the olive and mulberry trees, the success of which admits of no doubt, for they have thriven whieresoever planted; and they are in reality the golden mine of the country. A careful inspection of the vicinity of the towns which we occupy will afford the conviction

that no land was ever cultivated with greater care. At every step are to be found ruins of canals adjoining old rotten trunks of trees, and close to decayed olive trees slender shoots springing up, as if to attest that this tree is imperishable in the Regency of Algiers; several of them must even have endured for ages. In the plain as on the mountains, as in all directions, the olive tree cannot fail to prosper in Africa, for the soil is everywhere adapted to it, and when it shall have been grafted, and more thickly planted by the labours of agriculturists, we shall rapidly acquire an increase of produce that will baffle all calculations. Experience alone will remove our doubts at a later period, as to which amongst twenty-one species from the south of France will best answer the climate.

The mulberry tree is similarly circumstanced, and the chances of both are the same. If we are to rely on accounts worthy of credit, the mulberry tree, which is carefully cultivated in the Beylick of Tittery, already produces a crop annually amounting to several quintals of silk. We must therefore begin with the olive and the mulberry. Previously to entering

upon venturesome experiments, it is important to consider what is the amount of an assumed produce.

It will afford satisfaction to read, on the subject of the acclimatizing of the mulberry tree and the rearing of silk-worms in Africa, a letter which I have received from the late Doctor Chevreau, head surgeon of the army, and in his life-time one of our most distinguished writers on agriculture.

"Having procured the eggs at the close of 1830, I commenced my experiments in the spring of 1831, and I now find myself with a third generation of naturalized Algerine silk-worms.

"I applied myself more especially to render my insects as rural as possible; the stuffs bearing the eggs were always left hanging to the wall of an apartment on the ground floor of my country-house; this uninhabited chamber is open, winter and summer, to every wind. Instead of making them hatch by an artificial heat, I wished them to derive no other warmth than that of the atmosphere; the caterpillars, placed partly on boards, partly on the ground, cast their four skins with the greatest ease;

no disease affected them; and they afterwards briskly ascended the furze, winter-berries, and other briars laid before them, which they covered with a countless number of balls. This tufted bunch, which I had the honour to present to the Civil Intendant, was an excellent specimen of this year's crop; the harvest produced nearly three hundred pounds of fine balls. Instead of having recourse to ovens or stoves to destroy the chrysalis, I merely exposed them on my terrace, to the rays of the July sun, and acquired the certainty that two or three days were sufficient for the operation; this plan had already proved successful in the preceding year.

"Now that I have laid by a provision of eggs, for 1834, I have had my silk spun by means of the loom which I had caused to be erected in 1832.

"The Civil Intendant was enabled to form an opinion of the produce of my first spinning by the skein which I had last year the honour to present to him. It is asserted that the skeins of the present year surpass it in perfection; but no encomiums can possess greater value than that which I attach to his approba-

tion; and it is in order to enable him to appreciate the results of my experiments, that I hasten to address to him a few samples of my second spinning, as a homage due to the zealous protector of our agricultural industry.

"In consequence of my decided predilection for magnanerie, and feeling desirous of setting the example, I exerted myself, as early as 1831, to procure a small country-house at a short distance from the town. Having no time to lose, I enriched it at first with four hundred grafted mulberry-trees, which succeeded to my entire satisfaction; learning afterwards that nurserymen already possessed and cultivated the *Morus alba multicaulis* of the Philippine Islands, imported by M. Perrottet, which forms the food of the caterpillars that supply the finest Chinese white silk, I hastened to procure some, and planted, this winter, about fourteen hundred, which have thriven so successfully that they are found covered with fine leaves, many of them broader than the palm of the hand.

"I propose, this autumn, to renew the seed-bed of mulberry-trees in meadows, according to the American practice; my first experiment

failed, owing, no doubt, to the indifference of the seed.

"Some eggs of the silkworm placed on a mulberry-tree became a prey to birds and ants; the question will arise as to the means of parrying this evil when making fresh experiments."

To this letter I subjoin another, and a far more curious one, containing the account of a highly interesting experiment made in the garden of experiments of the colony, and which is calculated to afford a favourable solution of the problem as to the rearing of the silkworm on the tree itself.

"Monsieur l'Intendant,—Considering the cultivation of the mulberry-tree and the rearing of the silkworm as one of the operations the most pregnant with advantage to the colony and to the mother-country, I have attempted to rear it in the open air on the tree itself, conformably with the practice in Georgia and Syria. I was unfortunately engaged on a mission at Bona at the moment when I might have found a sufficient quantity of eggs of the silkworm; and I only succeeded, on my return, in procuring a very

small supply. As soon as they were hatched, I placed them on a mulberry-tree (at two in the afternoon, on the 4th of May).—There was a fresh and rather strong breeze, Reaumur's thermometer was at 19 degrees. A heavy shower fell for ten minutes at five on the same day. The next morning was foggy, and the wind blew the whole day; a heavy storm, rain and thunder, succeeded a few days afterwards; nevertheless, the silkworms on the tree became stronger than those I had carefully preserved in an apartment: I was much pleased at this success, but found myself unable to follow up my experiment to its complete solution; for although my worms grew larger, their scanty numbers daily decreased, and the last of them falling, like the rest, a prey to birds, disappeared after having dwelt for seventeen days on the tree, having encountered nine showers and braved the thunder and fogs.

"Our experiment, though it failed to be decisive, proves, at least, that this economical manner of rearing silkworms may be as much resorted to as it is in Georgia and Syria, since the worm maintains itself in the best condi-

tion, and, as is the case in those countries, has only the birds to apprehend. With a view to remedy this evil it will be necessary to place on the tree a quantity of eggs five or six times greater than what would be placed in a sheltered spot; but as the eggs of silkworms are an insignificant expense, this expense cannot be taken into the account. I think that, by the adoption of this course, there will, eventually, be obtained, at a very trifling cost, the same quantity of balls, and a much stronger silk than is afforded by the worms reared in apartments. The birds may also be frightened away by means of some scarecrow; and, in case of need, the mulberry-trees might even be covered over with nets. I apprehend, however, that increasing the quantity of eggs will be found an adequate precaution."

I must now advert to other plants.

The almond-tree thrives on hillocks and dry grounds. Some old trees afford a fruit of tolerably good quality, but the species is generally an indifferent one. By endeavouring to improve it, an excellent produce might be the result.

A few plantations of vines are found in the

vicinity of Algiers, but they had been all abandoned, or much neglected. Will they be renewed? Will their number be increased? Regard being had to the well understood interest of the mother-country, to that of the colonists themselves, I cannot believe it. It would seem to me very desirable that we should limit ourselves to the introduction of the best species of Spanish vines. If the Corinth raisin should thrive, as there is reason to hope would be the case, it might be usefully cultivated, and, after being dried, might become an advantageous article for exportation.

In a soil either soft or susceptible of irrigation, its fertility yields to almost all varieties of the vegetable kingdom.

A considerable supply of greens is required for a numerous population; spacious kitchen-gardens have, accordingly, been already planted, and will further be established around the principal towns.

Fruit trees, which are extremely rare, and, for the greater part, of indifferent quality, stand in need of being increased and improved by grafting. By the exercise of some discernment in the choice of proper exposure

to the sun, every species cultivated in France would thrive here, and to this may be added many that are of the growth of southern countries.

Next to these objects of cultivation I shall have but a word to say respecting the potato, hemp, and flax, which, though well known and attended to in France, would also prove useful in this country. I may, also, by the way, advert to the madder; but we should more particularly attend to those new articles of produce, the rearing of which is within the reach of possibility.

The crop of tobacco in France is but of very inferior quality, and she derives from abroad a great part of her consumption of it. It is, no doubt, owing to the injudicious selection of the seed-beds that the tobacco hitherto cultivated in the regency is generally of a still worse quality; but, by procuring the best species of seeds from those parts which most resemble this country in respect of temperature, we can hardly fail to acclimate them. We have made requests to that effect, and, I trust, we shall soon be enabled, by the result of the first experiments, to enlighten the colo-

nists with regard to this branch of agricultural industry.

The herbaceous cotton-tree is already known in the regency, and two of the tribes adjoining Algiers derive some produce from it. When, by the still further removal of our blockhouses, we shall have secured the free possession of the plain, it will become possible for us, at Bona as well as at Algiers, to undertake this species of cultivation on a large scale. Many plants of the small cotton-tree have thriven successfully.

The sugar-cane and coffee-tree are two intertropical productions, the adaptation of which to this climate has engaged our best attention.

If we can rely upon the traditions preserved amongst some of the natives, the first was formerly cultivated with success in the regency; but Turkish despotism caused this branch of industry, like so many others, to disappear. The growth of the sugar-canes in our garden of experiments has been extremely rapid; it has also been attempted by some colonists. The lapse of time has already enabled us to

ascertain, in some degree, the favourable results of these simultaneous trials.

Coffee-trees forwarded from Paris, and planted on a hillock exposed to the mid-day sun, have struck well, and produced excellent shoots.

With respect to orange and lemon-trees these are indigenous to the country. They are everywhere to be met with, and much finer at Belida than at any other place.

Very recently, sarsaparilla, a plant become so useful at the present day, and the vivacious flax, have been discovered in the neighbourhood of Algiers.

The cultivation of indigo has completely succeeded at Algiers—it is unattended with expense or trouble; not so, however, the manufacture of it. The first and chief difficulty is that of having an indigo manufactory distributed into many basins constantly supplied with water. Few of our colonists could undertake the construction of one, either because the locality or want of springs would prevent them, or owing to the absence of adequate pecuniary means; but wheresoever the rear-

ing of this plant has been attended to, there has only been a limited number of indigo manufactories, to which the small proprietors brought their leaves, as grain is brought to the mill. The second difficulty consists in the necessity of possessing a special knowledge of this kind of manufacture, which requires very great experience.

These considerations have been so fully appreciated by the government, that in India, as well as in Senegal, it had at all times appointed indigo manufactories, who were bound to work for all who should desire their assistance. Now that every doubt respecting this plant is removed, should not the same motives induce it to create such an office for Algiers, as it has done for other colonies? The question appears to us the more deserving of attracting its attention, as the individuals who have devoted themselves to the study of indigo, might, in the event of their not finding an outlet, give it up altogether, and discard it from Africa.

A manufacturing attempt made in the early days of June, 1834, in the government garden, exhibited the following results.

On a surface of four square metres, we have had four cubic metres of leaves, and, after beating and boiling, six ounces of fecula. This quantity is greater than what is obtained in Lower Bengal, and it would have been still more considerable had we not been at a loss for suitable instruments.

The plant does not rise to the same height as that of India; nevertheless, it is equally robust; and a distinguished colonist, *M. Elie Petit*, who has resided for some years in this country, affirms that, at Algiers, it is loaded with a more abundant colouring matter.

We are, in short, as much favoured as Indostan, and shall have three crops a year; whereas, in Lower Bengal, they generally reckon upon one crop, and no more.

In the province of Oran all scarlet dyes are made by means of the kermès, a produce afforded by a small insect, who lives on a species of dwarf oak. It is found in many places, but nowhere in greater abundance than on the *Mountain of Lions*, at the distance of three leagues from the town of Oran, in the direction of Algiers. It is in the beginning of spring that the insect settles under the cuticle

of the branches or leaves; it then swells, and assumes the form of a gall-nut, in size like a pea. The crop is gathered in June.

Leghorn and Tunis are the only points to which this produce has hitherto been sent, the exportation of which, in 1832, amounted in value to 26,572 francs.

It would not be devoid of interest to consider the means of extending it.

The nopal, a species of *cactus* without thorns, to which the cochineal clings, is found in abundance in the vicinity of Algiers. Struck at this circumstance, and deeming it probable that where the shrub grows wild the insect might be successfully reared, I selected, with the approbation of government, in two different exposures, the one to the east, and the other to the west, two pieces of ground intended for plantations of this shrub. M. Loze, a surgeon in the service of the royal navy, who has published in the naval annals some very curious details respecting the cochineal, and who made the rearing of it an object of his peculiar study, was specially intrusted with the direction of the establishments.

Notwithstanding that they were undertaken

in the most unfavourable season, the experiments respecting the cochineal, which he had gone in search of to Cadiz, have weathered the winter, and have satisfactorily passed the ordeal. Bred in Africa, and upon the cactus of the country, it went through all the periods of its existence, which is of four months' duration, without having experienced the slightest change in its form or size, and resembles, in every respect, that which is reared in Spain.

In order that we might be the better satisfied of the result we were in quest of, the plantations of cactus were divided into two parts; the first was left to the inroads of the weather, the winds and rain; the second, or reserve part, was placed in cases, and under enclosed sheds. The cochineals have thriven alike in either case. More precocious even than those of the reserve, the former have acquired a larger size, a circumstance tending to prove that the external air imparts to them greater vigour, more colouring matter; in short, a superior quality.

All the layings were perfect, and every cactus was loaded with them at the end of May of the same year.

Independently of those which we have left on the trees, with a view to their renewed propagation, there remained, in August and November, 1834, a crop of forty or fifty kilogrammes of breeding cochineals. If we estimate the kilogramme at eighty francs, which is their lowest value, it is evident that from this source we shall derive a produce which, at a later period, will mainly contribute to cover our expenses.

The acclimating the cochineal in Africa is no longer a problem to be determined, but one which is already solved *.

The planting of bamboo has also been recently effected. Should it succeed in acquiring at Algiers the same proportions as in China and in India, its naturalization will prove of the highest importance. The absence of wood, which is so severely felt, would render its utility as great in this country as in

* The earliest cropped cochineal having been submitted to the examination of the Superior Council of Commerce in Paris, has been found of a quality so analogous, in all respects, to that which is derived from Mexico, that if placed in similar baskets, it would be impossible to distinguish the one from the other.

those where it is indigenous to the soil, and where it is used not only for all kinds of furniture, but even for constructing habitations.

Henna.—It will, assuredly, not be regretted that we should supply such information as the country has afforded us respecting this plant so little known, its botanical properties, its cultivation, and its crop.

The wives of the natives, and the children of both sexes, employ the leaf in dyeing their hair, their nails, and the palms of their hands; the Arabs and Moors use it in dyeing the manes and legs of their favourite horses, as well as their backs round the saddle.

Any neglect of this custom is a sign of mourning.

Botanical properties,—described by M. Desfontaines in his *Flore Atlantique.*

The henna is a plant of the species of the *Salicaria* (Jussieu). Authors have erroneously placed it in the *Octandria Monogynia* (Linnæus); for there are found from eight to twelve stamina upon each.

It scarcely rises more than three decimetres above the ground. It bears much resemblance to the pomegranate-tree (*Punicea ranatum*),

which is so common, that frequent mistakes have been made in respect to both.

Its roots are ligneous, sapped, palmy, and brittle; and force their way perpendicularly and to some depth into the ground.

The stem is cylindrical, of about the thickness of a finger, though sometimes of a larger size. The branches and leaves are alternate, wide spread, slightly angular at the base, but quadrangular at the top.

The leaves, which bear petiolets, are pointed, and very perfect, appear opposed to each other, but, when attentively examined, they are found to lie in parallel positions.

The flowers are very numerous, small, of a whitish colour, spring up in terminating panicles, the ramifications of which are slender and alternate. The petals, four in number, are whitish and rumpled. The flowers, when exposed to the fresh air, spread a pleasant, and by no means a spermatic odour, as stated by M. Desfontaines. This odour disappears on the drying up of the flower, when it somewhat resembles the smell pointed out by that learned botanist, a circumstance leading to the

inference that the description he gave of it was derived from the plant when dry.

The fruit is a spherical pod, usually of the size of a sweet pea, slightly flattened at the top, and divided into two, three, or four compartments by a papyraceous partition.

The seeds are small, cuneiform, of a reddish colour in their desiccated state. Their number varies from thirty to thirty-five. The pod, previous to its being perfectly ripe, frequently opens in the under part, and affords an egress for the seeds. This opening is but partial, and applies to only one half of the pod. It remains the same in appearance both before and after the opening.

Cultivation and Crop.—The seed of the henna is only sown soft, and mixed with fine light soil. The plant, at the end of three months, has acquired its full development. By cutting it only once in the first, and twice in the second year, three crops are thus secured for every succeeding year.

The leaves may be preserved for eighteen months without losing any of their strength.—*Genty de Bussy*, vol. i. p. 236.

TERRITORIAL DIVISION OF THE REGENCY.

[Vol. I. p. 115.]

THE provinces of Constantine in the east, of Oran in the west, and of Tittery and Algiers in the centre, composed, previously to our occupation, the four divisions of the former Regency. The three first were placed under the authority of Beys, whose relations with the Dey of Algiers resembled in a great measure those of the Pacha of Egypt with the Sultan, that is to say, the obedience of the vassals was commensurate either with the power of the sovereign and the fear which he inspired, or with the valour and numbers of their tribes, and the chances which a rebellion held out to them. Whatever events might occur, the territorial divisions remained undisturbed. If a Bey rise up in insurrection, the competitors who, in such a case, are ever on the watch, occasionally strangle him ere he can mount his horse; and this execution becomes the stepping-stone of the sanguinary rise of the most daring. If the insurrection acquires, on the contrary, a character of consistency, the Aga of the Dey and the Turkish militia undertake to

suppress it; the year thus performs its wonted course with a few revolutions more, and a few men less, to mark its progress; fresh disturbances forthwith begin with the succeeding year.

Each province was formerly subdivided into districts, the command and administration of which were confided to Kaïds. The political circumscription of the country extended no farther.

The capitulation has installed us in the place of the Dey of Algiers. Our power in right, if not a power in fact, extends, at the present day, over the whole of the former Regency. The mission of M. de Mornay, in 1832, and the formal renunciation of the Emperor of Morocco to every claim over the district of Tlemsen, which was the consequence of it, are a proof, as we have already seen, that France intends to retain full possession of her conquest.

Except in the province of Tittery, which extends beyond Mount Atlas, and where we have as yet been unable to penetrate, the Beys are now the French Generals, the King of France is the Dey. But wherever we have

hitherto failed in making an impression upon the country, the Kaïds, to whom we grant letters of investiture, often possess beyond these nothing more than a nominal title; and when they are amongst their tribes, their territorial authority does not exceed the limits of their tents. We now stand in need of chiefs whose power extends over a positive jurisdiction, if I may so express myself. We must begin by establishing the reign of order, by creating territorial divisions. No administration of the country can avail without unity, and unity, which cannot be everywhere, should, nevertheless, be everywhere represented.

Our communications, which have been exclusively carried on by sea, have circumscribed us for the last four years, within a kind of archipelago; and this state of things can only be altered when we shall be enabled to overrun the whole of our territory, and shall be in actual possession of the country. Previously to Abd-el-Kader's submission, from the towns which we hold in our possession, we never knew whence the thinly scattered Arabs were sent to us at his instigation.

We have accepted the Regency with its

old political and administrative division, with Algiers as a central point; and as long as we remain separated from the other provinces by unsubdued tribes, we shall be compelled to adjourn the modifications which it cannot fail to call for.

But a more or less influential part is reserved for certain points of the interior of the country. Why should we not endeavour at once to establish one of these points at one of the most important towns, at Constantine; that vast bazaar of all the Arabs, which may justly be termed the caravansary of Barbary? We have made some attempts, but in so imprudent and ill-directed a manner, that they have failed of success. Is this a motive for renouncing to open fresh communications with that town? By a better selection of our agents, it is probable that a different result would attend them.

We possess, as yet, properly speaking, no territory whatever round Bona and Oran; but the establishment of our blockhouses has secured to us, for the last three years, a circumference of three leagues and a half round Algiers. It is only within this limit that we possess a real power, and that our colonists are

secure from inroads. A few acts of devastation, too often inseparable from the vicinity of camps, but which are daily repressed by the watchfulness of the chiefs; a few robberies, favoured by the isolated nature of the habitations,—such are the legitimate causes of complaint occasionally renewed, but which are now on the decline, and which the organization of the spahis will wholly eradicate.

But the country of Algiers, with the two villages of colonists who inhabit it, only acknowledge in some measure the authority of the town, when their daily wants require their so doing. There is everywhere felt an absence of superintendence, more particularly of civil condition, and it is of the utmost importance that an act of authority should interpose, either to bring them under the municipal jurisdiction of Algiers, or to create a special jurisdiction to rule them. We have not yet made sufficient progress to release from dependence upon the central power, a district which is at scarcely a greater distance than three leagues from it.—*Ibid.*, vol. i. p. 166.

THE JEWS.

[Vol. I. p. 147.]

THROWN everywhere as an accident in the midst of empires, everywhere scattered and dispersed, the Jews, whatever may be the nation under whose fostering care they come to seek shelter, can nowhere succeed in constituting themselves a nation *.

The indolence of the Turks and Moors, their inaptitude for every kind of trade, were the baits which attracted the Jews to this part of Africa, and which explain their mustering in such considerable numbers.

It would seem that the secrecy of their speculations makes them dread the openness of fair dealing, and that injuries and insults are as incapable of exhausting their patience as their cupidity. Supple, insinuating, trading in everything, real brokers of all countries, but perfidious, grasping, insincere: such were

* It is needless for us to say in this place that we have merely spoken of the Jews in a semi-barbarous state. We are foremost in rendering justice to what they are in a perfect state of civilization. The Jews of Europe have nothing to envy men of other religions.

the Jews of the middle ages, such also we found them at Algiers.

It was with the view of screening themselves from the rapacity of their enemies, that in former times they invented the bill of exchange; unable in those days to find any security in the places where they resided, it was natural they should go to foreign countries in search of it; and we are now indebted to a sense of fear for that trading facility which pervades the whole world. Heaped in the most infected quarters of the towns of the Regency, their presence is a perpetual ground of alarm to the public authorities; and a reduction in their numbers could not fail to prove beneficial to the general salubrity. Nevertheless, their voluntary emigration from Algiers to other points is extremely rare, and it is more especially at Oran, that they have been found occasionally to emigrate to and from Jerusalem. The arrival of the Europeans, by rendering their intervention an act of necessity, has spread some degree of comfort amongst them; some few have even enriched themselves; but with the downfall of the Deys has fled from them the opportunity of

making colossal fortunes; and Europe is the only stage upon which those amongst them whom nature has gifted with a superior understanding, can hope henceforward, to realize the like wealth.

The former government had maintained them in the free exercise of their religion, but they were exposed to every species of indignity, and arbitrarily condemned to the most painful labours. If anything can excite astonishment, it is, that the struggle which has arisen between them and their tyrants, has ever found their patience proof against the most barbarous treatment. I shall only relate the following, amongst a multitude of instances, of the pleasure that was felt in vilifying them on every occasion: a police ordinance of the Dey commanded that every Mussulman or Christian should, when passing through the streets at night, carry with him a lighted lantern; the Jews only were deprived not of light but of the lantern. This sufficiently attests that every species of degradation and insult was heaped upon them.

The conquest alone was enabled to rescue them from such dreadful oppression. A sense

of justice forbade our doing less for them than for the Moors, and we were bound to secure an equal measure of liberty to both. Having so much cause to rejoice at our arrival, did the Jews testify their gratitude? have they appreciated the advantage of that change from war to peace? Far from it. We have often found their names involved in guilty intrigues; though they would have proved utterly useless had they been called upon to carry them into effect, for nature has denied them the very courage requisite for perpetrating evil deeds.

We shall at last be under the necessity of collecting Jews as well as Moors, in manufactories or workshops, and assigning works to them. But their besetting poverty is a state so organic, that were it not for the excessive filth which it engenders, they would afford no ground of uneasiness; accordingly, their existence can only attract in a slight degree, the anxious attention of the government; for, independently of the fact that they subsist upon a trifle, so long as there may be a bargain to make in Algiers, or a single crown in circulation, both the one and the other will have

to pass through their hands, and to leave some traces of such passage.

The Jews, however, possess some domestic virtues. They feel the keenest attachment for their children, and in this respect only, is the portrait of Rebecca's father, in *Ivanhoe*, one of historical veracity.

It is astonishing to behold the religious fidelity with which they have retained those ancient customs that have hitherto stood the test of revolutions, of distance, and of time. In respect of worship, they are still the Hebrews who marched towards the promised land; but in respect of courage and social virtues, they are one of the most degraded people in the world.

Scattered and disregarded throughout the Regency, the Jews have not, therefore, the privilege of holding up their heads in any part of that country. It required many centuries in the nations of Europe to raise them to their level; and whilst overcoming their repugnance, they have still condescended with much reluctance, to hold out to them a friendly hand. In rendering them henceforward subject to our laws, should we not be giving them more

than they could have hoped for? Considered as civilly dead previously to our arrival, they glided through every road without knitting their brows; resorted to cunning and to meanness, submitted to humiliations and to contempt in endeavouring to amass a fortune; for the most part, however, they were shunned and vilified, ending their days as they had lived, in a brutish and abject condition: avarice was the only feeling which made them cling to life. If necessity called in their aid, a want of confidence ever repelled them; for it seems that at all times and in every part of the world where civilization has not yet penetrated, loyalty and Jew are words incompatible with one another.

The Moors entertain towards the Jews a much stronger feeling than that of hatred; they have an unconquerable antipathy for them.

Uninfluenced by, and free from such aversions, we had not to combat them; compelled, however, to lean upon the Mussulmans, without sharing their scruples, we have not only respected them in life, but have even fostered them beyond the tomb; we have separated

them from the Jews even in their burying-grounds, and the Moors have loudly applauded this line of demarcation.

It is worthy of remark, as a singular fact, that, throughout the Regency, the Turks despised the Arabs, the Arabs the Moors, and the Moors the Jews. In those barbarous regions, the Jews are ever found on the lowest steps of the social scale, which they never attempt to ascend; they are as constant in their meanness as in their cupidity.

Devoid of weight in the political balance, they will scarcely ever prove better than a useless wheelwork for our public establishments; should they remain, we will keep them and throw the shield of our protection over them; should they leave us, we have no weighty motives for attempting to retain them. —*Ibid.*, vol i. p. 115.

NEPHTALY ABOUSNACH, THE JEW.

[Vol. I. p. 156.]

THE Bey of Constantine repaired, according to custom, to Algiers. Desirous of making a splendid present to the Dey's wife, the Bey applied to a Jew named *Nephtaly Abousnach*, (the Bacry's partner,) to procure a jewel of great value. The latter presented to him a *sarmat*, set with diamonds, worth sixty thousand dollars (three hundred thousand francs) ; the Bey purchased the jewel, but having no ready money, agreed to pay the cost in measures of corn, estimated, each, at four francs, and of the conventional weight of forty kilogrammes. The Bacry sent vessels, after the harvest, to load the quantity of seventy-five thousand *sahs*, or measures of this corn, which they sent off to France at the period of the English blockade; they sold each measure at the price of fifty francs, though it cost them no more than four, and this cargo produced three millions seven hundred and fifty thousand francs. The jewel is said to have been made in Paris, and to have cost thirty thousand francs. One of the partners who had procured the jewel from

Paris, having derived no profit from the transaction, repaired to Algiers to claim his share, but was unable to obtain it. These details were furnished to me by the partner himself. This money, is the origin and one of the principal causes of the downfall of the Turkish Government in that part of Africa.—*Sidy Hamdan*, vol. i. p. 142.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE BEREBERS.

[Vol. I. p. 158.]

THE men cover themselves with a woollen garment, their dress has the form of a sack, open in the centre to admit the head; two other openings at each extremity, afford a passage for the hands. This species of sack is about an ell wide, and falls down to below the calf; it is made of black wool woven by women. As this wool is ill washed, when soaked with rain, it emits an intolerable smell, and the dress then becomes oppressively heavy. It serves all the purposes of

trousers, &c. The wealthiest of them, however, add another dress over it, which they call *Bernouse;* it is still of the same stuff, and of a shape not unknown in Europe. This dress is kept in repair, and lasts until it falls to tatters; a single one usually serves for a whole life; it is never removed from the body; gets wet and dries onthe back of the wearer, whether from the effect of the air or from the heat of the fire.

The women wrap themselves up in a haïk secured with pins; they also weave the stuff of which it is made; this dress is lined at the end, with another stuff of a red or blue colour, nearly four fingers wide. This coloured wool comes from Algiers; wealthy women cover their heads with a piece of linen or a cotton kerchief. The children are completely naked, as I can aver from personal observation; they are not covered until winter, or until they attain a mature age. Any one who wears a cap, which is wholly repudiated at Algiers, is considered a fop. Some of these fops preserve their caps for so long a time unchanged, that they become black with dust and perspiration. With respect to the covering for their feet, the Ka-

byles wear a kind of buskin secured with leather straps, like those of the ancient Romans. I have seen these Berebers in their own dwellings and at Algiers, take off in winter as in summer, their square garment, and turn it into a pillow when they retire to rest; those who wear the *Bernouse*, convert them into a covering, and stretch upon a mat when they find one at hand. The greater part lie down upon the sand, at a distance from each other, in summer; and light a large fire in winter, by means of the wood which they procure from the forests abounding in their country; they stretch themselves with their feet before the fire, and quietly repose in this position. They feed upon barley bread, olive oil, dried figs, and wild chestnuts. The wealthy amongst them, being those who own two or three goats, enjoy the luxury of milk. Others are possessed of a certain number of goats and ewes, reared up for the purpose of being sold in the towns; they seldom eat mutton or poultry, which they only indulge in when they receive the visit of a guest, for they religiously adhere to the laws of hospitality: such a day is held by the tribe as one of rejoicing; the chil-

dren skip for joy on the occasion; then it is that the sheep is sacrificed. They cook the meat with the *couscousou* *; and the dish being thus prepared, pieces of meat are cut off, of the size of about a pound weight, and the head of the house presents it to the guests in the following manner; he distributes to each a piece of meat; and, as the neighbours and friends are in the habit of coming to assist at the feast, a share of the dinner is offered to these inquisitive visiters, provided there should be anything left; but the host, at any rate, carries his politeness to the extreme of helping them before his own children. Their dessert only consists of dried figs, even if they should have other fruits within reach; and as fruit-trees are abundant, they preserve the fruit for the inhabitants of the towns, to whom they sell it in the public markets. They are scarcely acquainted with the flavour of these fruits.

In the small villages or hamlets, houses are constructed of wood and cane bound together. Their form is quadrangular, and the flooring is of similar construction; the whole is flanked with earth mixed with cattle-dung,

* A dish dressed with vermicelli and broth.

to keep out the rain; a species of grass called *diz* is sown on the roof. The elevation of the building does not exceed the human height. Herbs, and leaves of trees are gathered up and preserved as food for the cattle in snowy weather. These habitations also afford shelter to beasts; and the ewe, the goat, the mule, poultry, dogs, men, women, and children are all huddled up together in the same place. When a fire is lighted to warm the building, the effluvia proceeding from these living beings and mixed up with the smoke which is allowed no vent, form a thick and unwholesome fog. When proceeding on my journey to Constantine, being unused to this mode of living, I found it impossible to subsist in these habitations, and preferred sleeping in the open air, rather than take shelter in the midst of this Noah's ark. The master of the house, who gave me hospitality, was under the necessity of coming to protect me, as well as my beasts of burden, against the inroads of robbers and wild beasts. It occasionally happens that lions come to prowl about the habitations for the purpose of carrying off some of the cattle; but they drive away these wild beasts with as

much composure as we might chase away a dog, accustomed as they are to the visits of these fearful animals. If we except the implements requisite for the labours of agriculture and for their cattle, they possess not a single article of furniture. They have a small mill for grinding grain, a little barley-flour, and some grain kept in store for unexpected calls; they also keep a bag of dried figs, some wooden utensils, and a skin full of water, which is kept suspended from the roof.

They are frequently engaged in wars against each other; the conqueror burns the habitation of the vanquished, which is, however, soon rebuilt, owing to the great abundance of wood to be found all over the country. Horses, mules, and asses, climb with ease the steepest ascent. The inhabitants set the greatest value upon fire-arms, preserve them with the utmost care, and wrap them up in clothes; these arms are what robbers covet the most, and wrest in preference from the natives, who, in spite of every precaution, seldom succeed in preserving them from their grasp.

The mosques of these villages are constructed in the same manner as the habita-

tions, with this difference only, that they are whitewashed with lime. Those amongst them who are acquainted with the religious ceremonies are held in the same consideration as learned men are in common towns. — *Idem*, vol. i. p. 15.

TAKING OF BOUGIA—ANECDOTES OF THE KABYLES.

[Vol. I. p. 161.]

THE reader will be glad to find in this place one of the first and most interesting episodes presented to us by the conquest of Bougia. The drama which it embraces is a further proof that the Kabyles combine in an equal degree the characters of ferociousness and generosity.

In the early days of November, 1833, the brig, *Il Correro*, from Constantinople, was wrecked on the coast of Bougia. Amongst the sufferers were the Moor Kara-Ali and the Arab Boucetta, who both fell into the hands of the Kabyles. This sad event was no

sooner made known than one of the ship-wrecked people, who had succeeded, through numberless obstacles, in reaching the French advanced posts, brought information that those two unfortunate beings were still living.

Forty-eight hours afterwards, a message arrived from the tribe which detained them as prisoners, with a letter, wherein the chiefs imposed, as the condition of their ransom, the evacuation of Bougia. No answer was made to this absurd proposal, but a second letter was received, offering to give them up for a sum of one thousand two hundred and fifty francs.

The commanding officer accepted the offer. Desirous, however, of investing with every precautionary measure the issue of this negotiation, which an act of bad faith might annul, he intrusted the money to Allegro the interpreter, and ordered two small armed vessels to sail from Bougia, and proceed with him to the place which had recently witnessed the massacre of the two French merchants.

Unexpected difficulties as to the conclusion of the bargain, gave cause to apprehend that the Kabyles would endeavour to seize upon

the money, without, at the same time, releasing their prisoners. A violent wind arose during the conferences; the swell had greatly increased, and it would have been imprudent on the approach of night to remain any longer on a coast where the waves might, from one moment to another, endanger the safety of the vessels; it was, accordingly, determined to return to Bougia.

It was about nine o'clock at night when they quitted the shore, without coming to any conclusion with the Kabyles. However, to the great astonishment of all, Kara-Ali and Boucetta entered Bougia the next morning, almost naked, and exhausted with fatigue.

The following occurrence had taken place. At the moment of the shipwreck, the Kabyles had divided amongst themselves the wreck of the vessel, and contended for the possession of Kara-Ali and of Boucetta, in the hope either of obtaining a large sum of money from, or of wreaking their vengeance upon them: thanks, however, to the intercession of the women, whose protection they implored, their host, Ali-Oubram, took them under his charge, and promised that the honour of a Kabyle should

be their safest asylum. No sooner said than done: he concealed them in a wood adjoining his habitation, and his mother, not content with attending during the night to their sustenance, had them, moreover, provided with defensive weapons.

The report of this capture having reached the surrounding tribes, a meeting was held of the principal chiefs of the mountain. Ali-Oubram, unmoved, came into the midst of the assembly, and declared his intention to send the prisoners back to the French, whose character he respected. He had scarcely uttered these words when twenty muskets were levelled, and three of them fired at him; by great good fortune, however, the train alone caught fire. They separated, after resolving that the price of the ransom should be fixed at one thousand two hundred and fifty francs.

Allegro had no sooner departed on his way back, than a fresh discussion arose; a quarrel ensued, some musket shots were exchanged, unattended with any result. In the meanwhile, however, the storm was gathering in another quarter, and threatened Oubram, who persisted in retaining charge of the men,

whose heads were called for in every direction. Informed of what was taking place, he went and addressed to them this appalling language:—"Resolved not to permit that a murder should be committed by strange hands upon men who have taken shelter under my roof; I am now going to put you to death."

Once more, however, Providence was watching over them, and the women of their host were again to rescue them from destruction.

Oubram had no sooner returned home than his mother, in the greatest alarm, inquired after their fate:—"They are yet under your protection," he replied; "they have not yet left us."

"Base coward!" exclaimed his mother, spitting in his face, "cursed be thy father!—cursed be the day when I gave thee birth!—cursed be the milk with which I have suckled thee! No, thou art not a man!—no, thou art not my son! If thy arm is still able to bear a musket, take this one; go instantly to meet them; lead them home by the land road; great dangers await thee; thou mayest even perish in the attempt; but hospitality will not, at least, have been violated beneath thy roof."

Stunned by the violence of this apostrophe, Oubram made no reply, but shouldered his musket, girt his yatagan, desired Kara-Ali and Boucetta to follow him, penetrated through ten hostile tribes, reached our advanced posts by a long circuit, and arrived delighted and proud at having accomplished his mission.

The promised sum was paid to him, to which a few presents were spontaneously added.

When a fear was expressed to him that his tribe, on being apprized of this act, would plunder his fields and his property, he replied:—"It matters not; I have done my duty; my mother, wife, and children will be respected; I am satisfied."

These gloomy forebodings were but too fatally realized; the property of the brave and unfortunate Oubram was set on fire, and he was forced to abandon the tribe of Béni-Amran, to which he belonged, and seek with his family a refuge in that of Béni-Mohammed.—*Genty de Bussy*, vol. i. p. 110.

THE MARABOOTS.

[Vol. I. p. 163.]

MARABOOT signifies, in Arabic, a man bound or devoted—it is understood to the cause of God and humanity. Sidy Hamdan Ben Othman Khoja, an author on the subject of Algiers, the more interesting for being a native Moor, speaks thus of the hereditary honours which are paid to those holy men by the Mahometans:—

Some of the descendants of the Maraboots have deviated from the example set by their forefathers; if they have neglected their principles, they are nevertheless held in respect by the people, and are called by the title of Monseigneur, and not by their usual names. Thus it is that they are designated by the name of the family which is held in the highest repute.

The existence of these Maraboots in African society is a positive good; the ascendancy they have acquired amongst the different tribes is attended with the effect of compelling hostile parties to lay down their arms, and of prevent-

ing the effusion of blood. Their power over the ignorant and narrow minds of the Kabyles is truly wonderful. It seems as if God himself directed and controlled them, and the credulity of these people in their regard, borders upon rashness. The Maraboot who enjoys the highest credit, at the present day, and who is nearly looked upon by the Kabyles as a divine being, bears the name of *Sidy Ally Ben Issa.* He inhabits *Carrouma,* and is the disciple of the celebrated Maraboot, *Sidy Mehemed Ben Abderahman.* The latter enjoyed, in his lifetime, the highest possible reputation of holiness, even at Algiers and amongst the Kabyles inhabiting that city. This extraordinary personage died towards the close of the eighteenth century: he had been buried in the *Hammah.* The Kabyles proceeded on a particular night to carry off his body, which they deposited in the mountain of Jarjera, to be afterwards interred in the village of *Carrouma,* not far from *Filessa.* Nevertheless, the spot where his body was formerly deposited is still viewed with respect. It is the custom to bestow alms upon the poor in the neighbourhood of this spot; bread and

money are distributed to them, and all persons present at this good work, hope that their prayers may meet with acceptance in heaven. This kind of adoration is the more inconceivable, as the principles of the Mussulman religion do not admit that any earthly being should obtain divine honours. We believe that the holy will is one upon earth, and in heaven, and that God who is everywhere cannot be fixed to any particular spot; that the charity bestowed on our fellow-creatures is a proof of our obedience to that belief, and that ere we can deserve divine grace, we must follow the commandments imparted to us. We also believe that our actions, whether good or evil, shall one day be requited. The popular belief, therefore, which prevails in respect of the Maraboots, is built upon ignorance, upon false principles, upon prejudices which it would be difficult to correct, but which are well known to our learned men, and to the chiefs of the Turkish government. Political considerations induce the latter to maintain or suffer such erroneous principles to subsist, and even to pay respect to those spots which the Kabyles hold in veneration. These considerations had

secured to them what the French army has destroyed since its arrival on the Algerine territory; for, instead of following up such principles, it set about establishing novel ones diametrically at variance with the manners and customs of the inhabitants.

To return to the Maraboot *Ben Issa*, and make known the great influence he exercised over the minds of the Algerines, it will suffice to say, that he is the same who, after the invasion of the French, offered to negotiate a peace between the latter and the Kabyles. The power of this man extends as far as the very kingdom of Tunis. In each Kabylate, whether town or village, he has a representative within the mosques, who is commissioned to receive all the donations intended for him. The same representative collects the tithes on the harvest; and all such comings in are distributed amongst the indigent class, and are applied to the keeping up of places devoted to purposes of hospitality: wherever there is a collecting representative, there exists a house open to hospitality where travellers are gratuitously fed and harboured, as well as their beasts of burden. At the close of each year,

what has not been expended in this establishment is sent to the chief Maraboot. I have personally held intercourse with this Maraboot, and found him a plain, modest, man, of the soundest judgment, impelled by philosophical sentiments, devoid of prejudices, and by no means wealthy, since after having distributed his alms, he is scarcely left with the bare means of subsistence. There is to be seen before his door, a great number of porringers wherewith to offer nourishment to his guests, and sacks of barley, as well as straw, for the beasts of burden composing their train. He displays this hospitality towards all who present themselves. He was desirous at this time, of confiding to me the task of selling for his account, a garden which is his property in Algiers; but I dissuaded him from this idea, in order that by his influence he might promote the French cause, and perhaps induce, by his mediation, the Bey of Constantine to conclude an honourable peace; it was the object of the Duke of Rovigo to attach him to his party and to secure his friendship; for he was fain to acknowledge that he possessed some influence.

The Maraboot, who is alive to the object of his religion, can skilfully and profitably wield the means which he has at command. He will not say to the Kabyles: you must obey the laws, listen to and follow the dictates of morality; he will tell them: accursed be the man who does not perform such an act! In this manner he compels them to obey, and obtains all he wishes at their hands, by resorting even to positive commands, which he represents as being the expression of the Almighty's will. Nevertheless, they act with moderation and policy; they never attempt the slightest innovation, and refrain from any step calculated to offend the self-love or usages of the people. The conduct of the Maraboots secures to them unbounded influence.—*Sidy Hamdan*, vol. i. p. 9.

TOMBS OF THE MARABOOTS.

During the administration of General Clausel in Africa, the tombs of the Maraboots have been seized upon and turned into quarters for the troops. I have already explained how important it was to respect esta-

blishments of that nature, which are so strongly linked with the customs and prejudices of the lower classes. The Turks, in the days of their dominion, have always felt it to be their interest to defer to those projects, in order to acquire a hold upon the people.

The French government has thus taken possession of these tombs for the benefit of the administration of the domains, and some of them have been let to merchants. In virtue of what law has such an appropriation been made? Was it done to alienate the minds of the African people, to renew the spirit of fanaticism, increase the vexations, and prevent all colonization of the country? Were these means resorted to, on the other hand, in order to enrich France and augment its treasures? No!—the object must have been to create on the African continent a horror of the French or rather of the European name, for men are known there by no other distinctions than that of the turban.—*Idem*, vol. i. p. 301.

MILITARY OCCUPATION OF ALGIERS.

[Vol. I. p. 184.]

When Mustapha, the minister of the Navy, became convinced that a catastrophe was impending, he opened the chest of daily expenses, caused the amount to be distributed amongst the workmen, and the registers to be burnt. Several families then embarked in ships belonging to the arsenal, in order to effect their escape to the country of the Kabyles and to *Bougia*. The merchant vessels forming part of the expedition came into the roadstead, and plundered the harbour. They carried off chains, cables, the bags of wool which were used in the trenches, anchors, sail-cloths, hemp, and a quantity of other stores. The various articles thus carried away by these vessels, with the assistance of their long boats, amounted to a considerable sum. We cannot pretend to say whether they had a secret understanding with the French authorities: I rather incline to think that each one took on his own account; there was a share for all parties; the plunderers were agreed and did not betray each other. Such were the

first-fruits of French degeneration and French civilization!!!

One half of the French army was quartered in the gardens or country-houses of the inhabitants of the town. To recall in this place the fact, that the owners of those habitations have ever received any indemnity,—that they were not allowed to enjoy their own property, —that the doors were destroyed and used as firewood,—that the iron bars were torn off and sold,—that searches were made under the floors in the hope of finding imaginary treasures, all this is no more than the truth!! In short, the gardens and habitations were so completely devastated as to have been rendered useless. What I relate is neither overcharged nor exaggerated; none but an eye-witness of this general ransacking could form an adequate idea of it.

This is one of the chief causes which led the owners to abandon their property on the conditions tendered to them, and almost to give it away. Let any one now boast of possessing property at Algiers! Thus it was that national property was acquired in France during the revolution! It will require the lapse of

centuries ere the memory of such exactions can be obliterated, or millions of indemnity to clear the troubled consciences of their possessors. The sway, beneath which everything is destroyed which admits of destruction, can be no other than the reign of revolution and disorder.

Some Europeans, recent possessors of property, after having cut down the trees, turned the gardens into a wilderness, and converted everything to money, being unwilling or unable to pay the annual amount agreed upon, and have even had recourse to chicanery in order to annul the acts they had drawn up. The tribunal was overbalanced with suits and suitors, for the greater part of those acts had been amicably entered upon, by the interference of brokers. Some of these had destroyed everything, and displayed the most consummate bad faith; others effected a resale; and these successive sales produced a series of cavils, owing to the original sale having been improperly effected, and being open to litigation. The confusion was as great for the inhabitants as for the tribunals. Under these

circumstances, the real proprietors were forced to consent to any arrangement, rather than risk a total loss.

In this manner were effected many of the transactions which took place at Algiers. In this manner have the French succeeded, and they will further succeed in securing to themselves nearly the whole property of the country. I am not aware of a single property having been purchased in the usual and legal form.

Such contracts are exclusively of the nature of perpetual leases; but our law does not admit their validity; as an agreement for a lease cannot subsist amongst us for a longer period than a year. Some jurists pretend that a contract can be made for a three-years' duration; but a proprietor is always at liberty to extend a lease, or make it determine after the first year. I shall devote to a special chapter a clear and detailed account of whatever relates to our laws.

The causes which prevented the French from making legal acquisitions, in the manner prevailing amongst us and in France, may be

accounted for as follows:—1st, They are not certain of accomplishing a system of colonization; 2nd, Most of the Europeans who have repaired to Algiers are needy adventurers, eager to enrich themselves at the expense of their neighbours.

General Clausel was, therefore, mistaken when he assumed, in one of his publications, that in Mussulman countries the sale of immoveable property was not effected in the same manner as in France, but under the obligation of granting perpetual leases. We indulge a hope that he was led into error by some Jews, his favourite advisers; as he might otherwise be accused of having deceived the French nation as well as those who have repaired to Algiers for the purpose of acquiring property in so convenient a manner.—*Sidy Hamdan*, vol. i. p. 228.

ON THE ADVANTAGES OF A CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

[Vol. I. p. 196.]

WITH *a governor taken from the civil service,* and such, we will not disguise it, is an avowed wish to procure for the Regency, immediately disappears the danger of seeing the means substituted for the end. He will be better practised in the art of managing his fellow men, better inclined to a gentle and persuasive, rather than to a severe and violent course. His mind, being concentrated towards a single object, he will make it his glory and his ambition to secure peace and the progressive prosperity of the country. As he will be inaccessible to the allurements of battle, the military spirit will give way at his approach, and the spirit of colonization will resume the first place, which alone belongs to it.—*Idem,* vol. i. p. 443.

ABOLITION OF THE TRIBUNAL OF HANAPHY.

[Vol. I. p. 232.]

THE abolition of the tribunal of *Hanaphy* is an irretrievable error, contrary to the provisions of our laws. One of the articles of the capitulation secures its inviolability; now, then, the abolition of that tribunal has been a direct infringement of the principles of the treaty between Algiers and France. In virtue of what right or of what law has General Clausel thus acted? Was it to insult the Ottoman nation? Nevertheless, there exists no animosity between France and the Ottoman empire. Why, then, treat its laws and regulations with contempt? — *Idem*, vol. i. p. 240.

ADMINISTRATION OF BOURMONT.

[Vol. I. p. 237.]

THE arms of the militia and of the inhabitants of the town were taken from them. We were prepared to be called upon to place those

arms in deposit, as a measure of guarantee and security; but we also thought that the French would act as the Russians had done when they invaded the Ottoman Empire. They collected all the arms, to each of which was affixed a label bearing the name of its owner; and they were deposited in a mosque with a view to their being restored at a proper time. We were warranted, I repeat, in hoping that the French would act towards the Algerines as fairly as the Russians had done towards the Turks; the more so, as amongst the inhabitants of the Regency, a warlike weapon is considered as an article of furniture; it serves according to its richness, as an ornament to apartments: there are individuals possessed of arms set with silver, gold, and precious stones. Those objects represent a capital, which has been surrendered upon honour, and which it behoved good faith to preserve for us; our arms, therefore, when delivered up to the French, should have been held by them as a sacred and inviolable deposit. By what right could they convert them to their own use; is it by right of purchase, of hire, or of donation? They have the power

in their hands, and have acted arbitrarily on the occasion; but it is impossible that any French law should authorize an act of spoliation; on the contrary, the law of nations is directly at variance with such a proceeding, and the French civil law derives its origin from the law of nations.

My children, as well as myself, possessed splendid arms, ornamented in gold, silver, coral, and precious stones; their value might amount to twenty thousand francs. With a view to conform to the orders issued on the subject, I had them placed in two chests, and deposited with General Loverdo, who gave them admission into his house. This general having, soon afterwards, requested of me to take away the deposit, I had them removed to the residence of my friend the Neapolitan Consul; but the latter, having felt some apprehension on their account, I immediately relieved him of the charge, and thought it right to confide it to General ——, who was lodged in my country house. This personage placed the arm-chest in a private room, of which he kept the key in his own apartment. Nevertheless, on the day of his departure, I found the chests emp-

tied of their contents. Having inquired of him what had become of my arms, he replied: Your son took away a portion, and I helped myself to the remainder; here is the value which I deemed it right to set upon what I have retained. (To the best of my recollection, he handed me thirty-six Napoleons.) My son had not taken any part of the arms; he could not have stolen what belonged to him. To this gallant General, therefore, and to those of his suite, I am indebted for being robbed of my arms.—*Idem*, vol. i. p. 225.

POLICE *.

[Vol. I. p. 248.]

We are, perhaps, too little acquainted with what takes place amongst the Arabs; few ques-

* Its organization has at last taken place, and the country no longer struggles under a provisional system. The means placed at its disposal are powerful, its numbers imposing, but the expense is also considerable. Our object in this place is neither to examine nor criticise its details; time alone will set its stamp upon it; we await the result.

tions, however, are of greater interest to us; I might name a certain power, which, in order to keep up its relations with Algiers and the Regency, annually sacrifices upwards of one hundred thousand francs. It is the same which, in India, wonderfully contributes to learn beforehand the projects of the countries in the vicinity of which it has for ages maintained a footing. How does it manage? To what talisman does it resort? it pays liberally. An opportune intelligence may defeat a coalition, divide our enemies, make us the better appreciate our friends; it may cause a town to fall into our hands, may promote the aggrandizement of our power, and spare a battle to our soldiers. These are the results which it is always better to purchase by the weight of gold than with the effusion of blood. The African Commission has represented the secret expenses at a sum of a million of francs; comparing it with the influence it is calculated to produce, we are far from deeming it exaggerated.—*Genty de Bussy*, vol. i. p. 447.

HUSSEIN PACHA.

[Vol. I. p. 257.]

THE ambition of the Khaznagy was at one time exclusively directed to the object of raising a conspiracy, of securing the whole militia to his party, and of causing the Hussein Pacha to be beheaded, with the view of possessing himself of the supreme authority.

He had formed the project of concluding a peace with the French on such conditions as they might think proper to impose; he accordingly evinced great activity when the movement of the French army was directed against the fort of the emperor. But when he saw himself attacked, he lost his wonted courage, and was so alarmed as to forget to close the gates of the fort; his men still more panic-struck, resorted to every possible means for effecting their escape.

The Khaznagy, soon finding himself deserted, amidst so impending a danger, prepared in all haste a train of gunpowder to reach the powder-mill and blow up the fort, this was fortunately the small powder-mill; for had it been the great one, which is lower

down, the town would have been seriously injured, on account of the immense quantity of gunpowder contained in it.

Previously to this event, Hussein Pacha had entertained a high opinion of this *Khaznagy*, to whose opinion he had often had recourse.—*Sidy Hamdan*, vol. i. p. 189.

THE PLAIN OF THE METIDJA.

[Vol. I. p. 328.]

THE plain of the Metidja forms a semicircular zone, from eighteen to twenty leagues in length, and four to five leagues in breadth, enclosed within the foot of the lesser Atlas, and the hills which surround Algiers. It has two slopes towards the sea, the one bending to the east by the Arath, the other to the west by the Mazafram. Owing to this disposition, there is no absolute necessity for simultaneously drying up both parts of the plain.

Let us also remark, that the falls which produce the inundations descend from the

mountains, and that the two rivers are sufficient to carry off the rain-water of the plain, and of the reverse of the hill. We can easily infer from this remark, the system of works which it would be proper to execute.

Let a canal of enclosure be opened at the foot of the Atlas, to answer the purpose of a canal of aërifaction, of navigation, and of irrigation, the water of which may set manufactories in motion. Let the course of the Arath and that of the Mazafram be improved by embankments and other works; in short, let ditches be dug at the foot of the hills and in the plain, for the purpose of carrying off the rain-water to those two rivers; the operation of drying up will be complete, and upwards of eighty leagues of a highly-fertile land will then be susceptible of immediate cultivation.

But if, in order to attain so great a result, it were requisite, as is generally supposed, to bury thousands of men and large sums of money in the Metidja, it no doubt would be preferable to renounce all attempts at colonizing the environs of Algiers. This is happily not the case.

The northern reverse of the Atlas is far

from being so unhealthy as the southern reverse of the hills of Algiers, and the plain itself is unwholesome only during half the year. No danger could therefore attend the constant working at a canal of enclosure, and at the formation of ditches during successive months.

The necessity of protecting the works in progress would call for the occupation of Belida and Colea, and the establishment of intrenched camps at the foot of the Atlas. It would be natural to employ the troops placed on that line in the opening of the canal of enclosure, leaving the remainder of the works to be carried on by ordinary workmen. The whole of the works could, however, be turned over to the company, which might offer to effect the drying up, provided the advantages conceded by the law of the 16th of September, 1807, were granted to it.

This important operation, so indispensable for removing the unwholesomeness of the Metidja and of the hills, would not occasion, for both parts of the plain, an expense of more than two millions of francs.

There exists in the Regency of Algiers

every germ of prosperity; and the experience of three years has pointed out the course to be adopted for the purpose of attaining the happiest results; in vain, however, would the first colonists persevere in their labours, or fresh capitalists come to tread in their footsteps, if the provisional system were not soon to be brought to a close. The colony can never develope itself on a large scale until it has received every species of guarantee, which, up to the present day, has been wanting to it; it must necessarily obtain pledges of stability emanating from some official act of government, specific guarantees for agriculture, commerce, and industry, as well as judicial and administrative guarantees. — *Ann. d'Alger*, 1833.

ON THE GOVERNMENT OF BOUGIA AND ITS GARRISON.

[Vol. I. p. 331.]

THE chief of the government of Bougia was a Turk, appointed by the Pacha, who assumed the title of Kaïd.

Next to this Kaïd another Turk commanded the garrison of his own nation, which consisted of sixty men, and was changed every year.

The country was so salubrious that these Turks were, at all times, free from maladies.

The garrison, called *nouba*, was commanded by an aga.

There was, besides, a chief of the town militia, *Zouaoua* (or Zouava). It consisted of two or three hundred colouglis, and of Arabs, who attended to their private business, and never left the town, but confined themselves to the defence of its walls. The whole of their pay amounted to one thousand boudjoux (one thousand eight hundred and sixty francs) a year, which they divided between them. They had a right to carry muskets; many amongst them were sailors.

A Cadi administered justice in civil causes, religious matters devolved upon the Mufti.

The Kaïd had right of life and death over the inhabitants of the town, as well as over the Kabyles of the country, but it only extended to the latter when he could reach them. He pronounced judgment in correc-

tional and criminal cases, ordered cudgellings and imposed fines. He levied taxes upon the only neighbouring tribe, that of *Mezzaia.* With a view to their collection, which took place twice a year, in winter and in summer, the Kaïd sallied forth with five or six notables of the town, and this small number of men was sufficient; so much did the fear of the Dey of Algiers keep every one in subjection.

The summer contribution was discharged in kind, the winter one in money.

The town was free from every impost: all that was collected was an anchorage duty, which the captain of the port, who was a Turk or Anefi, levied upon foreign vessels; higher in amount for the latter, it was only two saas of corn (measure of Algiers) for vessels of the country.

The *Kaïd-el-Karesta-Oulid-Farhat* likewise resided at all times in the town, to superintend the trade in wood. He was charged with the supply of the timber required at Algiers for building purposes. This functionary was selected from the family *Oulid-Farhat,* one of the first of the tribe of the

Béni-Mimouns, the most powerful amongst those who dwell in the mountains where this wood is to be found.

A *Mezzouar* exercised the police regulations over married women, and had the cudgel applied to them to which they had been sentenced by the Cadi. He assumed at Bougia the name of *Mezzouar Chersa*.

The Bey of Constantine, who, with the exception of Bougia and of Mezzaia swayed the whole province, did not levy imposts upon the Kabyle tribes, of which a few only obeyed his authority; amongst these were the *Béni-Mes-saouds*, *Oulid-Abd-el-Dgebbars*, *Fenayas*, *Senadjas*, and the tribe of the wide and fertile valley where flows the *Oued-Béni-Messaoud*, a river discharging itself into the sea near Bougia, and, lastly, those tribes either dwelling along the roads taken by the Turks when they encamped, in order to secure the return of the impost, or inhabiting mountains of easy access.

The weak tribes complied, but the strongest offered resistance, without, however, affording aid to the others. Egotism only gave way when religion was concerned.

The Turks exerted their best endeavours to prevent the circulation of arms and gunpowder in the interior of the country. Such, however, was their apprehension of failure that they never attempted any expedition against the places where the manufactories were notoriously in existence.

Nevertheless, it is related that, on one occasion, as they were returning from Algiers, they found themselves under the necessity of purchasing gunpowder from the people of *Greboula.* But an exception forms no rule, and if, in this circumstance, they yielded to necessity, it was never again resorted to.

No imposts were paid by the Maraboots, their families, or their descendants; an exemption clothed with the Pacha's seal, and renewed at each new reign, was expedited to them from Algiers.—*Genty de Bussy,* vol. i. p. 96.

HASSAN VENEDIC.—1582

[Vol. II. p. 45.]

HASSAN VENEDIC only remained a year at Algiers, from whence he was sent to Tripoli. Previously to his departure, he gave to an English merchant a passport for the protection of his commercial dealings. This singular document, which was no doubt paid for at a high price, was worded as follows:—"We, Hassan, Pacha, Lieutenant and Captain-General of the dominions and jurisdictions of Algiers, grant and concede full and unrestricted liberty to Thomas Singleton, a merchant, to go and come, to negotiate and traffic, in the town of Algiers, and in other places of our jurisdiction, in the east as well as in the west, with his vessel, his sailors, whatever may be their nation, and his merchandise, from whatever country they may proceed. We, moreover, order the Admiral of Algiers, and of other places within our jurisdiction, and all captains, whether of our own ships, or those of the Levant, great or small, of all descriptions whatsoever, that if they meet the said Thomas Singleton, an Englishman, in the

seas of Genoa, of the east of France, of Naples, of Calabria, of Sardinia, &c., with his vessel, his merchandise, and his men, of whatsoever nation, they shall not molest, nor take anything belonging to him, whether money or goods, under pain of death, and forfeiture of their property. And if you set any value upon the favour of His Highness, our Sovereign Lord, the Sultan Amurat, you will allow him to proceed on his way without hindrance. Given at Algiers in our royal palace, confirmed by our royal seal, and written by our first secretary, the 23rd of January, 1583."—*Anecdotes Africaines.*

MEMMI BACHA.

[Vol. II. p. 45.]

MEMMI BACHA had succeeded Hassan Venedic: in 1584 his administration exhibits an uninterrupted series of inroads upon the Christians. The English African Company lost one of its vessels in those incursions. As a treaty was in existence between England and the

Porte at that time, which secured the freedom of commerce, the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Edward Osborne, wrote to the Pacha the following letter, to remonstrate with him upon the acts of injustice committed by his Corsairs.

"Most High and Mighty King; may it please your Highness to be informed that the most high and most powerful Sultan has agreed with her most excellent Majesty the Queen of England upon certain articles and privileges, in virtue of which the subjects of her Majesty are at liberty to go and come, and to traffic by sea and land in the dominions of his Highness, as more fully appears by the aforesaid articles, a copy of which we have sent to our Commissioner, Mr. Tipton, for the purpose of their being exhibited to your Highness. Contrary to the tenor of those articles, one of our vessels, on its way from Patras in the Morea, loaded with current specie, and with merchandise purchased in that country, has been sunk by two galleys in your town of Algiers, the greater part of the crew killed or drowned, and the remainder detained prisoners; an act directly at variance with the aforesaid articles and privileges. We there-

fore most humbly beseech your Highness, that since the Grand Seignior has condescended to concede to us those privileges, you would be pleased to promote our enjoyment of them, by granting that, in virtue of your authority, assistance, and favour, those poor men thus detained as prisoners may be set at liberty, each to return to his home; that your Highness will be further pleased to order the captains and crews of your galleys to allow us in future to pursue unmolested, our trade, which is annually carried on by six vessels, with Turkey and all other places within the Sultan's dominions, without attempting to infringe upon our privileges. For each of our vessels is provided with a passport from his Highness, by means of which it may be recognized. We shall feel greatly indebted by your Highness's concession of this favour, and are disposed on our parts to render him every service in our power, as Mr. Tipton will more amply affirm to you. And we will ever pray," &c.

This letter was not attended with any good effect; another vessel was captured soon afterwards, and Queen Elizabeth addressed to the Porte a complaint on the subject. The Sultan

sent orders to the Pachas of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, to suffer English vessels to pass unmolested; but this order proved as unavailing as the Lord Mayor's letter, and the Corsairs continued their depredations.—*Idem.*

CONSIDERATIONS ON THE COLONIZATION OF ALGIERS.

[Vol. II. p. 78.]

THE government has manifested the intention of establishing itself without injuring those populations which do not prove hostile to us, and desires that room may be found for both on the same soil. It is therefore amidst the Arabs, that the standard of French colonization should be planted. Whatever points of the country we may reach, we shall have to make grants of land, and, after those of the domain, which are considerable, we shall also have to grant away those of the Turks and of corporations, regard being had to reimbursing the rightful owners of the rents

with which they are charged, by only assigning the enjoyment of them.

But if this plan can be exclusively carried into effect by means of a military occupation, it is also requisite, as we have observed, that the colonists should depend on their own exertions. With the perseverance, the adventurous spirit which has brought them to a new world, they must combine courage and boldness; a few musket shots must not disturb and turn them from their purpose. If they bring to the improvement of the land a character of firmness and prudence, the dangers will vanish, and confidence will acquire fresh strength. In America none are found to have been massacred except those planters who, penetrating too far in the interior, and going beyond the encampments, had the folly to proceed to those spots not only ungarnished with soldiers to protect them, but where they had, moreover, a positive knowledge that their presence would not intimidate the natives, nor make them recede any farther.

In America, again, other wandering and equally warlike tribes have fled at the approach of industry and civilization. Let his-

tory be our guide. If a good understanding can be opened with the African tribes, let us promote it by every sacrifice compatible with our honour. Should they return in hostile attitudes let us drive them back. Commerce will work its way, and colonization gain ground. Let us recollect that the land is as common in every direction as the population is scanty, and that success awaits us at the close of our efforts.

Isolated undertakings present more obstacles than real advantages. What are we to expect from their narrow means, and unconnected endeavours? Nothing but a precarious result. Companies should, above all, be encouraged; they have more funds, more means, more interests, more uniformity to insure their success; they can concert their plans; and, I repeat it, the government should allow them to act, and merely extend its superintendence and protection to them. It should assume the right of laying down the conditions within the bounds of prudence, but never to transgress them. Should it keep within these bounds, it will be enabled to follow, perhaps even to direct the progress; but if it attempts to over-

step them it will check the spirit of industry, —a fatal privilege, the exercise of which is usually purchased at a heavy cost.

In the Regency it is indispensable either that the troops, constantly on the spot, should follow the colonists step by step, or that, whether pacified by victories, or by treaties of alliance, which is the better course, the country restored to the most perfect security, may allow the plough to work its way, wherever the land will admit of being cultivated and fertilized. —*Genty de Bussy*, vol. i. p. 286.

THE SEQUESTRATIONS.

[Vol. II. p. 88.]

SEQUESTRATION, such as it has been framed and applied by the decrees of 8th September, 1830, and 10th June, 1831, so far from agreeing, in my opinion, with the terms of the capitulation, formally detracts from it; but sequestration, such as the events have rendered it since our occupation, resting, as it does,

upon conspiracies and flagrant acts of hostility, should not only be maintained in the different cases in which it has been pronounced, but be left within the power and discretion of the commander-in-chief, as a measure of high state policy, as a sword which he must, in case of need, draw from the scabbard, and wield against those public disturbers whose absence prevents his immediately overtaking.—*Ibid.*, vol. i. p. 390.

SCHOOL OF MILITARY MEDICINE.

[Vol. II. p. 124.]

THE course commenced on the 2nd of January, 1832.

The minister of war, by a decision of the 17th of February, 1832, has made applicable to the medical school of Algiers the 1040th article of the regulation of the 1st of April, 1831, authorizing a distribution of prizes in the hospitals of instruction.

The sub-assistant majors, who shall have gained the prize, will be admitted as com-

petitors for such places of their grade as may become vacant in the hospitals of Paris.— *Ann. d'Alger*, 1833.

SCHOOLS.

[Vol. II. p. 127.]

Schools of mutual instruction for the study of the French language, of writing, and of arithmetic, are already, and have long been, established at Algiers, Oran, and Bona.

At Algiers, the largest school is frequented by one hundred and fifty pupils; out of eighty natives, the Moors formed at first no more than a fifth of the number. Independently of these public schools, accessible to the children of all nations and of all creeds, the town contains some private schools, ably conducted by teachers who have received the requisite authority to that effect, after having undergone an examination as to their capacity and their moral character. — *Genty de Bussy*, vol. i. p. 469.

CONDUCT OF THE FRENCH OFFICERS.

[Vol. II. p. 168.]

A CROWD of generals, colonels, &c., were quartered outside the town. They vied with each other in selecting the finest gardens, the most commodious habitations, of which they took arbitrary possession. They cut and hacked away at will; the proprietors could no longer return to their own homes. Not a single franc was laid out in effecting the slightest repair in any object, in short, except that of cutting down trees and committing some havoc.

With respect to myself, I have had for my guest General H——, who took possession of my garden without my knowledge, and expelled my servants. When apprized of this circumstance, I sent my son to Marshal Bourmont, in order to claim the promised protection for which the national honour had been pledged. Unable to see the marshal, my son proceeded to General Tholozan, and this worthy officer instantly gave him an order directing the removal of General H——, who was in my country-house. When my son pre-

sented the order to him he flew into a rage, tore it up, and said—" We have conquered Algiers, we are here as masters; everything is in our possession; M. Tholozan has no right to send me such orders." This officer's reply having been transmitted to me, I hastened to repair to him, hoping to find a courteous man, possessed of that circumspection and honourable feeling belonging to his nation. I represented that my son had erred in going to complain of him; that he should excuse a young man; that I should feel happy to receive so distinguished a guest in my dwelling, feeling assured that he would protect my habitation from being plundered by the soldiery. I instantly unlocked all the presses to prevent their being broken open; placed at his disposal the richest furniture and ornaments, linen, carpets, Sêvres porcelain (this consisted of upwards of five hundred pieces), as well as a tea service, of Sêvres porcelain likewise, which had cost me three hundred francs in Paris, a complete set of kitchen utensils, all kinds of china, jars full of oil, butter, and every kind of provision which we were in the habit of storing up for country use.

He had thus at his disposal a house complete in all its parts, every object of comfort, and even of luxury; I also left him the use of mules, and a groom to attend to them: no officer, therefore, could have more cause for satisfaction than he had. Nevertheless, he received my offices with disdainful pride, and gave me no more thanks than if I had restored to him his own property. Unquestionably he was bound, in my opinion, to act with greater politeness and delicacy, and to prove that he was not insensible to my conduct, that his birth was worthy of his rank.

This general, accordingly, made free with everything, and without the slightest reserve; and when he undertook the campaign of *Mediah*, with General Clausel, he took away with him two of my mules, who died of hunger and fatigue on their return from the journey.

I might well have spared such excessive politeness, considering the gratitude shown to me in return. If I attempted to visit my garden, I was either turned out, or had to await the general's permission ere I could enter it; nevertheless, I was well known to be the exclusive owner of the place.

When General H—— left the house he carried away whatever he thought proper, whatever was found portable, even porcelain and china, affirming, at the same time, that they had been taken by his interpreter. To this must be added my two chests of arms to which I have already adverted. The town houses occupied by the troops are no longer tenantable.

I have heard it related by well-informed individuals that the personages who have inhabited the Casbah (the Dey's residence) have had all the grounds dug up, in hopes of discovering concealed treasures. Even wells have been demolished under the same expectation.

Private individuals have, moreover, been compelled to remove from their own houses, and make way for the military: driven to despair, the inhabitants fled their country by sea and by land. What conduct could be more revolting on the part of the agents of power! They should, at least, pay a rent to the proprietors by way of indemnity for the deprivation and loss of their property.—*Sidy Hamdan*, vol. i. p. 233.

ANECDOTES OF ABD-EL-KADER.

[Vol. II. p. 196.]

THE following are details of the reception given by Abd-el-Kader to those of our officers who conducted back the envoy, by whose means he had entered into a treaty at Oran.

A little in advance of the Arab camp, a band of music came to meet them, and all customary honours were rendered to them, which chiefly consisted in frequent detonations of fire-arms. Being admitted into the presence of Abd-el-Kader immediately on their arrival, they received from him a gracious and dignified welcome. A tent adjoining the one which he occupied was assigned for their quarters, and every thing they stood in need of was tendered to them with as much profusion as courtesy.

An Arab attracted by curiosity, having thrust himself in the way of one of the French officers, had his head severed from the body by the stroke of a yataghan. Surprised at such an act of severity, the officer inquired the cause of it. He was answered that under the apprehension lest some fanatic should at-

tempt to make a rush at the French, Abd-el Kader had commissioned a score of devoted followers to watch them, and to strike at the first who might indulge in the least threat.

The next morning, he gave the signal of departure. In the space of half an hour, the whole camp was broken up; the tents were folded with the utmost despatch, and placed upon camels, and the troop was on the move. The baggage opened the way; the music followed, and Abd-el-Kader came afterwards. On the right and left, simulated battles were fought by gladiators armed with shields, the object of which was to beguile his time. Well-mounted horsemen in rich attire were placed at stated distances along the flanks, with a view to direct the movements of the columns.

Such was the order in which the retinue entered the town of Mascara.

Abd-el-Kader's is a spacious residence, consisting of four buildings which adjoin each other, of a single story, with arched windows in the Moorish style, on the ground as well as on the first floor. The interior forms a square court, from the centre of which springs a water-spout. The furniture, according to Arab

custom, only consists of a carpet and matting. A Khodja, who never leaves him, is constantly writing from his dictation.

A council composed of four Arab chiefs, and aided by a treasurer and the Khodja, assembles from time to time, to deliberate on important matters. Every day, morning and evening, one of the members repair, by turns, to Abd-el-Kader, for the purpose of transacting business with him.

During their short stay in this town, our officers met with the most cordial reception.

One of the officers of the second regiment of African Chasseurs, having returned some time afterwards with two other officers of the staff, Abd-el-Kader, with a view to greet his new guests, put his troop under arms, and leading it a certain distance from the town, requested the French commander to direct its evolutions: after several manœuvres the Arabs formed into a square. Two small cannon, which composed all their field artillery, were stationed at the wings. At the prince's request, the two staff officers pointed the cannon by turns, and took a rather correct aim. The Arab gunners then fired, but with less skill.

Abd-el-Kader, however, did not appear the less delighted, and expressed his satisfaction to all around him.

We were then in the month of April. The crops had been suffering from the excessive drought. Abd-el-Kader left the town in procession on a certain morning, bare-headed and bare-footed; and accompanied by a crowd of pious Mussulmans, he proceeded to a neighbouring hill, to offer up prayers for rain.

The alliance, concluded with the general commanding at Oran, having left Abd-el-Kader a prey to the attack of the sheiks of several adjoining tribes, his influence amongst them has therefore greatly declined.—*Genty de Bussy*, vol. i. p. 524.

THE END.

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ERRATA.

Vol. I. page 18, last line, *for* " Revière," *read* " Rivière."
„ page 47, last line, *for* " Couscusou," *read* " Couscousou."
„ page 54, line 15, *for* " Babel-el-Oued," *read* " Bab-el-Oued."
„ page 62, line 3, *for* " Matidjah," *read* " Metidjah."
„ page 111, lines 12, 13, and 20, *for* " powder-mill," *read* " powder-Magazine."
„ page 142, line 20, *for* " movables," *read* " moveables."

Vol. II. page 13, Head-line, *for* " Letttrs," *read* " Letters."

JUL 22 1941

